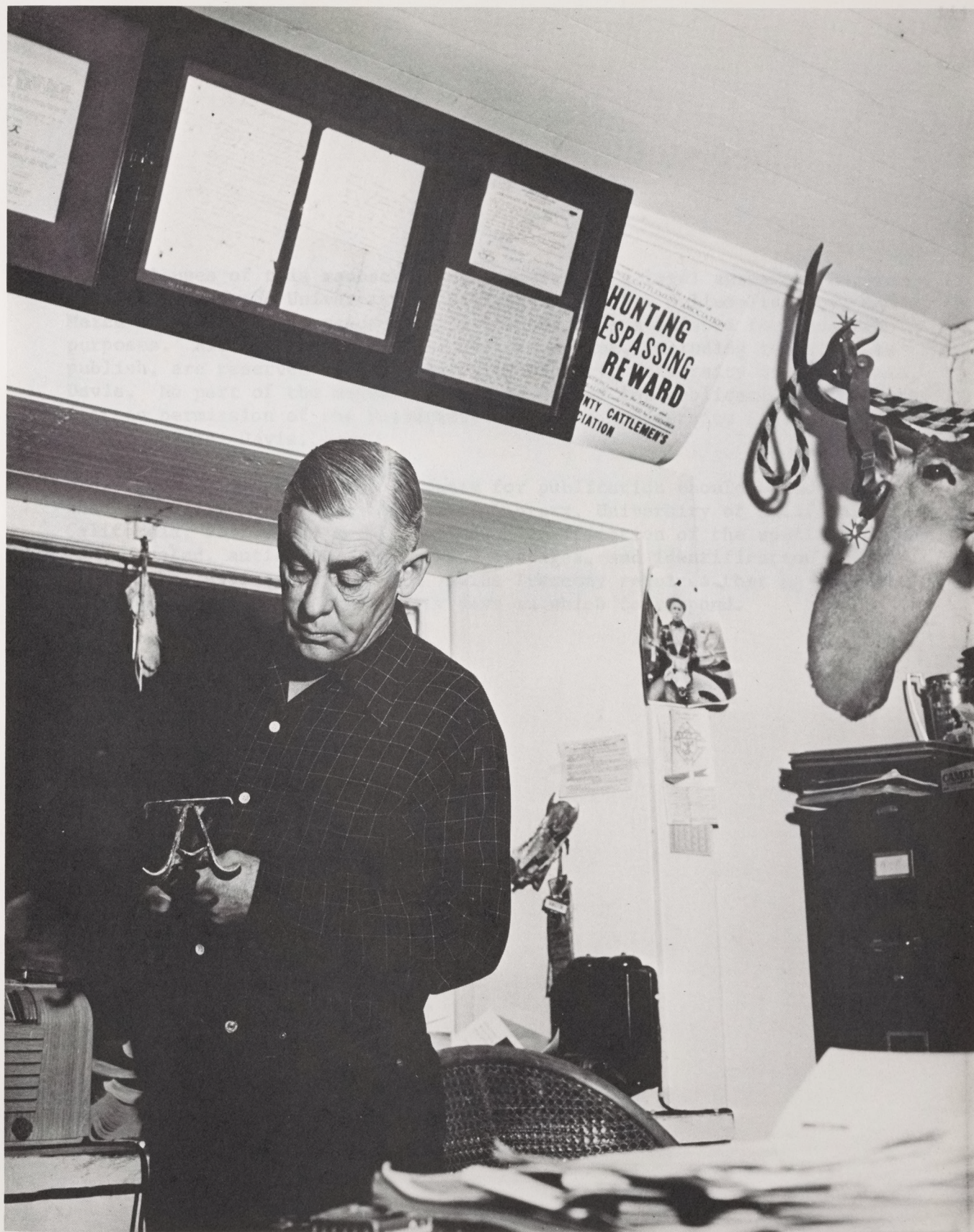


AN HEIR TO A LAND GRANT

Preface by Henry Schacht

Interviews conducted by
Reuben Albaugh, A. I. Dickman, and Marion Stanley

Copy No. ____



Julius in his unique office displaying the oldest trademark in California - the Spanish AT.

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The procedures of our oral history projects include not only the tape recording of memoirs but also their transcription, editing, and eventual production in book form. What is presented to the reader is a version of the spoken word, and overt attempts to mask this fact rob the presentation of the intimacy, candor and spontaneity which give each memoir freshness and charm. However, standard and recognized editorial techniques are used to maintain a consistency of style throughout all oral history project publications. Since basically each title is for University archival deposit, such matters as dates, names, places, and scientific terminology must be presented with the utmost precision. Editors will rely on the Chicago Manual of Style (1969) and the project's own style sheet to maintain an optimal printed version of the spoken word.

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The Trescony Family, left to right, Julius, Julian, Marie, Mario and Luis. 1940

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Julius in his unique office displaying the oldest trademark in California - the Spanish AT. 1950

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Copy of translated original application for permit to use the Spanish AT branding iron. May 5, 1846

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PREFACE

JULIUS TRESCONY ORAL HISTORY

Julius Trescony is a manysided person, as you who read this account of his life will quickly discover.

Encountered on the streets of San Francisco or in one of its exclusive men's clubs, Julius, who is always pleasant, soft-spoken, and immaculately attired, might easily be taken for one whose success has been in this urban world of business and finance.

Actually his origins and principal interests throughout his life have been rooted in the rangelands and croplands of Monterey County, on the historic Rancho San Lucas Grant where he still puts the Spanish AT brand on his stock.

There Julius built his reputation as champion rodeo performer, and more than that, as fine horseman and trainer of horses; as a rancher who welcomed progressive ideas in livestock and crop production and did his best to advance them; as a supporter of civic causes and worthwhile organizations; as a sportsman who could ride and shoot with the best of them; as one liked and respected by those hardest critics, his cattle country neighbors, who size up a man very well. Note that I say, "liked and respected." Many men are respected but may not be particularly well liked. Julius has earned both liking and respect.

I first met Julius years ago in company of his longtime friend and mine, Rube Albaugh, and much of what I know about him has come from people like Rube and Jack Hayes, a neighbor who has worked with him in developing the mesa land on his ranch, for Julius is not at all a man to talk about himself. We are fortunate that he has agreed to do so in this personal history.

Henry Schacht
May, 1978

INTERVIEW HISTORY OF THE MEMOIR OF JULIUS TRESCONY

INTRODUCTION

The idea of an Oral History Memoir of Julius Trescony was born with the Rancho Albaugh memoir in which Julius was one of the interviewers.

Our mutual friend Julius Trescony is one of the kindest, most helpful and generous gentlemen of our generation. Julius' unusual character is a product of the Western heritage. Throughout the ownership of the Rancho San Lucas, the Tresconys have not only been outstanding livestockmen but also exceptional producers of barley and other cereals.

During Julius' long and useful life he has been an active community worker, attempting to make this old world a better place in which to live. Because of his inventive and inquisitive mind he has always worked closely with the University of California on scientific research and educational projects.

This native Son has been greatly interested in the preservation of the old Missions in California. His support to the San Antonio de Padua Mission, located west of King City, and to Saint Anthony's Dining Room in San Francisco were extremely generous. His contributions to the California Missions have been recognized by the Franciscan Fathers, the Order which established and built all of the California Missions.

This expert horseman broke his horses California style by the hackamore spay bit route. As an outstanding cattleman he was one of the founders of the California Rodeo which is held during July each year in Salinas. Here he performed as a great caballero, vaquero, a trick rider and roper, using the old California dally style and the rawhide riata.

In my opinion Julius Trescony, without doubt, is one of the finest and generous native Sons in California history.

His accomplishments and his philosophy make an interesting literature whether the reader is an historical researcher or one who is reading for sheer pleasure.

John Baumgartner
San Juan Bautista Cattleman

For all of these reasons the Oral History Office was searching for a source of funds to finance the memoir. Fortunately one of Julius Trescony's close friends, Kenneth L. Eade, of San Lucas, volunteered to chair a committee to fund the project by soliciting donations by mail, aided by Marion Stanley, Farm Advisor, who also served as an interviewer. The response was overwhelming in support and as a result of the generosity of Monterey County ranchers and friends the memoir was completed.

A. I. Dickman
Interviewer - Editor

INTERVIEW HISTORY OF THE MEMOIR OF JULIUS TRESCONY

The idea of an Oral History Memoir of Julius Trescony was born with the Reuben Albaugh memoir in which Julius was one of the interviewers. His questions limned his own unusual personal history to such a degree that developing his life into a full length memoir seemed mandatory.

It was logical that "Rube" Albaugh should become one of the interviewers because the two men had enjoyed a close business and personal friendship over a fifty year period.

Whenever Julius' recollections faltered (which was infrequent), Albaugh's recall acted as a memory jogger. And this also worked in reverse with Julius' recall sparking questions from Rube. In many ways, the total work is greater than the sum of its parts.

The tape was transcribed and included, with permission, portions of a previous tape completed by Julius Trescony for the Salinas Public Library. Then the entire transcript was edited by both Trescony and Albaugh; the latter, aided by Lucy Garcia, also provided the chapter headings.

The Oral History Collection of UC Davis is enriched by this work for several reasons. The Trescony Ranch served to such a degree as a "cooperator" for Agricultural Extension that it was called the Trescony Experiment Station. In his memoir, Julius gives his reasons for this collaboration and thus he adds a new chapter from the point of view of the cooperating rancher to the oral history material on Extension.

It would be difficult indeed to find an individual other than Julius Trescony with a California background that is so authentically vaquero and "Don-like." Julius has been true not only to his ancestral tradition but in his own active life, he has added dimension to his family and to California history.

His accomplishments and his philosophy make an interesting literature whether the reader is an historical researcher or one who is reading for sheer pleasure.

For all of these reasons the Oral History Office was searching for a source of funds to finance the memoir. Fortunately one of Julius Trescony's close friends, Kenneth L. Eade, of San Lucas, volunteered to chair a committee to fund the project by soliciting donations by mail, aided by Marion Stanley, Farm Advisor, who also served as an interviewer. The response was overwhelming in support and as a result of the generosity of Monterey County ranchers and friends the memoir was completed.

A. I. Dickman
Interviewer - Editor

JULIUS TRESCONY

With appreciation to the folks who have made this memoir possible:

It was a great privilege and honor for me to be asked to interview Julius Trescony in the preparation of his memoirs. I have known Julius for 50 years during which time we have been very close friends. Our many activities such as research work regarding cattle and range improvement have been productive and inspiring. Our close association with educational organizations was gratifying. Our hunting trips and other traveling jaunts have always been enjoyable and convivial.

His million dollar philosophy has no equal, always appropriate and stimulating such as:

"Never hurry in the hills"

"All you got to do is have faith"

"Poco a poco se anda lejos" - "Little by little they travel far"

"God gave us memories so we could have roses in December"

"If you are going to give someone a bouquet, do it while he can smell the roses"

"Anybody can complain, but it takes a good man to meet and cope with the problems of life without being a burden on others"

Before undertaking this interview, a list of carefully prepared questions were listed. Prior to the taping, these questions were reviewed so that Julius's answers would be more complete and thorough. An attempt was made to capture Julius's unusual character. We tried to bring out and put in perspective his optimistic, positive attitude toward life. These memoirs depict in detail the colorful life of a cattleman who thinks like a scientist. His generosity, excellent manners and pleasant personality flow from every page - a Son of California to the very last degree - he represents the West in all its entirety.

Reuben Albaugh
Extension Animal Scientist,
Emeritus

LIST OF DONORS

With appreciation to the folks who have made this memoir possible:

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Trescony: restaurant and hotel; here he learned the hotel trade.

While in New Orleans my grandfather learned that Mexico was paying a bonus for sheep delivered to that country. Having saved his money, he bought a band of sheep in Texas and with a couple of Indians, two dogs and a tent he traveled throughout Texas for about a year, buying sheep. He ended up with about 2500 head and arrived in the District of Mexico where he turned them over to the government. That was quite a venture - at the time you must have been in the Chambers of Commerce, not a Triple A to guide you.

I GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES

Albaugh: Where were you born, Julius?

Trescony: I was born on March 18, 1890, right here in this adobe house where I am living today. In fact, I sleep in the room where I was born - that must be some kind of a record!

Furthermore, I was told that on the day I was born it was raining heavily and they had to get the midwife who lived down Paris Valley Road. They had a hard time because the buggy bogged down several times. I was the last of four children--three sons and a daughter.

Dickman: Speaking of records, tell us about the history of the Trescony family.

Trescony: Last year the Monterey County Historical Society made a survey to determine which family had lived on the same property the longest. Since the Tresconys had lived on the Rancho San Lucas for 116 years (paid taxes all that time), we were given the recognition and awarded a plaque at a special ceremony. Thus, my great-grandson represents the sixth generation of the Trescony family.

Alberto - The Foundation of the Trescony Family

Dickman: Tell us about your paternal grandparents.

Trescony: My grandfather Alberto Trescony was born in Domodossola, Italy, in 1812. He left home at age 18 (1830) because his mother had died, his father had remarried and he didn't get along with his stepmother.

He wanted to see the big, wide world and his first stop was in Paris, France. He was there a year and learned the French language and the tinsmith trade; he then went to New York City and met some Italian friends. He worked there for awhile until he learned about a job building program in Tennessee where he worked for a year or so as a tinsmith. He saved enough money, then left for New Orleans where the Tresconys (cousins) had a big

Trescony: restaurant and hotel; here he learned the hotel trade.

While in New Orleans my grandfather learned that Mexico was paying a bonus for sheep delivered to that country. Having saved his money, he bought a band of sheep in Texas and with a couple of Indians, two dogs and a tent he traveled throughout Texas for about a year, buying sheep. He ended up with about 2500 head and arrived in the District of Mexico where he turned them over to the governor and collected his bonus. That was quite a venture - at that time you must remember there were no Chambers of Commerce, nor a Triple A to guide you.

Having heard about the Golden State of California, he started traveling north and stopped at Mazatlan, a seaport, where he met Captain Leidesdorff (for whom a street in San Francisco is now named). He helped the Captain complete the building of a wind-jammer and then sailed for California--Monterey and San Francisco.

He arrived in Monterey in the summer of 1842. He immediately hung up a sign in Spanish telling that he was a tinsmith and dealt in all kinds of metals.

It took my grandfather 12 years from the time he left Italy to arrive in San Francisco - today you can make that trip by jet in 14 hours!

Albaugh: Is that progress, Julius?

Trescony: Speed - what else can you call it?

Dickman: Upon arriving in Monterey, what did your grandfather do?

Trescony: The next move was to buy the Washington Hotel which had been built two years before. It was an unusual three-story adobe building; the main floor was a restaurant and bar; the second floor contained a banquet room and convention hall. Rooms were on the top story--my father was born in one of those rooms.

During the period when the capitol of California was in Monterey, he leased out the entire building for \$1000 a month to a man named Lockwood. He later met a Mr. Oughletree who owned land in the upper Carmel Valley consisting of the Tularcitos Ranch (7500 acres); the Chupinos Ranch (7500 acres), some the Cachagua and some odd lands, totaling 22,570 acres. Grandfather loaned Oughletree money to carry on and in a year or so, he bought the acreage for \$1.15 per acre. I have the tax receipts from 1879 showing that he paid \$784 in taxes for the 22,500 acres.

It was stipulated in the deed that my grandfather had to take care of 30 Chinese milkers. Now today I doubt that any modern person has ever seen a Chinese milking a cow--a Portuguese or Italian, yes, but not a Chinese.

Trescony: In those days they wore long queues; he paid them a dollar a day, furnished them with tea and rice. They milked the herd of Durham cows, Shorthorn strain, that came from the county of Durham in England. They were red, good milking cows from which they made butter which was placed in firkins and shipped out of Monterey Bay, so I was told.

Albaugh: Julius, before you go on, tell us about the Chinese that was a good horseman.

Trescony: My father told me one of the Chinese who worked for him on the Tularcitos was one of the best bridle men he ever saw. He would take a young green horse and start him out in a spade bit. He had very light hands as well as a wide knowledge of the behavior of horses. Thus, the horses he broke were not only well reined but also had a velvet mouth.

Dickman: Did your grandfather sell any of his property?

In later years he sold the Cachagua property to a man named Berti whose family members are still living. He also sold some land to the Monterey Improvement Company but kept the Tularcitos and the Chupinos Ranches which were adjoining. The Monterey Improvement Company later became the Del Monte properties.

In 1862 Grandfather heard from a man named McKinlay who in this very dry year (one of the driest in history) had a ranch in the San Lucas area for sale. Grandfather met McKinlay, bought the ranch where we live today (8800 acres) and paid \$3,000 gold. The ranch originally was deeded to Rafael Estrada who was granted the ranch in the year my grandfather came to Monterey (1842). McKinlay had acquired the grant from Estrada in 1852.

Adjoining the San Lucas grant was the San Benito grant, some 8,000 acres. He bought that grant from a Mr. Watson. A little later he purchased a league of San Bernardo Ranch (2,700 acres) which made it a little over 20,000 acres here in the San Lucas area.

Grandfather came to California in '42, died in '92, and left 42,000 acres in the county of Monterey. How and why did he do it? When people asked him why he bought land, according to my father, his answer was, "People are being born every day, and there is no more land being made." As true today as then.

Dickman: Was he married when he arrived in Monterey? How long did he stay there?

Trescony: He was a single man; he stayed in Monterey practically all the rest of his life, with the exception of living in the hotel in Salinas during his later years.

Dickman: Did your grandfather have a tin mobile hut mounted on a sled?

Trescony: Yes, and I'll tell you how that came about. He built two or three of them out of five gallon cans. At that time he had about 9,000 head of sheep and they got scab; they built a vat to dip these sheep. They used a solution, brown-colored, called tobacco. The solution came in five gallon tin cans that my grandfather opened up and made these tin houses. They served the shepherders during bad weather.

Dickman: Your grandfather had the distinction of bringing several items into California for the first time, is that right, Julius?

Trescony: My grandfather brought into California the first harp, the first safe and the first billiard table. The latter was in the Washington Hotel in Monterey (where my father was born), and every quarter he had to pay a special luxury tax on it.

The harp was in my aunt's home and burned up in the San Francisco fire. The billiard table was destroyed when they tore down the Washington Hotel. The safe came here to the ranch where we loaned it to the Southern Pacific Milling Company in San Lucas. In 1975 we gave it to the Monterey County Historical Society. It weighed almost three-quarters of a ton and was in good working order.

My grandfather also had a 22 carat gold watch that I now have, on which he had to pay \$1 luxury tax every quarter. It is a key-winding watch and still works.

Dickman: Were either your grandfather or grandmother musical?

Trescony: My grandmother may have been, but I don't think he was.

Dickman: How was his health?

Trescony: It had to be very good. My father and other people who knew him said he was very soft-spoken, short in stature and heavy set; very cool and calm disposition.

Dickman: Was he athletic?

Trescony: I don't know. He had to be very strong because during his early years he lived a very rugged life. I imagine that journey through Texas for over a year, going through all kinds of weather, sheep, dogs and Indians, must have been quite an experience.

Dickman: Was he a good father?

Trescony: Yes, he was very good. In fact, I was told he never came to the ranch without bringing presents. He didn't want to live with any of his daughters or son. He would visit his daughter in Santa Cruz and his other daughter in Monterey but in his later years he lived in the Hotel Abbott in Salinas.

Trescony: He was very frugal - for example a friend told me he had met grandfather on a Saturday and said, "Don Alberto, what are you doing all dressed up?"

"I'm going to church," he replied.

"You've made a mistake; today is Saturday, not Sunday."


This man saw him a few hours later and Grandfather was in his old clothes again.

Dickman: Julius, tell us about the Indians that helped your grandfather sell the sheep pelts.

Trescony: During one of the driest years, he got some Indians to slaughter the sheep and carefully take the hides and store them. The sheep then were grazing around the Mission Soledad. The Indians kept salting and turning the pelts to preserve the wool; the demand for wool enabled him to sell the pelts for \$4.00 apiece. Prior to that, in the drought, the dying sheep brought only fifty cents. He had the foresight to make some money by this venture.

The Trescony Trademark - Spanish AT

Dickman: Tell us about your grandfather's famous branding iron - its history and use.

Trescony: When my grandfather started buying cattle ranches, he inherited cattle with them, so he made a branding iron. In 1846 he applied for the  brand through the mayor of Monterey; he also registered an earmark. I still have the original application which was written in Spanish and have sent copies to Bill Staiger, Executive Vice President of the California Cattlemen's Association, and also to the California Bureau of Livestock Identification.

Albaugh: Is this the oldest cattle brand in California?

Trescony: There were several brands registered prior to my grandfather's, but they were dropped. So, the Trescony brand is the oldest brand in continuous use in the state of California. We don't claim to have the "first" brand, but the "oldest" in continuous use.

Dickman: What other property did your grandfather own?

Trescony: He owned the Half-way House in Salinas and other property in that area, including one of the small hotels.

Dickman: Did that become the Abbott House?

Trescony: That's right; the other part of the family inherited that property. The court appointed three men to appraise and distribute the Trescony properties. They were all men who naturally couldn't lead waste-land. I was one of them. I had waste-land from 100 to \$2,000. I was a more productive land.

Dickman: VERY ILLUSTRIOUS COUNCIL:

Trescony: ALBERTO TRESCONY, A NATIVE OF ITALY AND A RESIDENT OF THIS PORT, BY OCCUPATION A TINSMITH APPEARS BEFORE YOUR HON. BODY AND SAYS: THAT FINDING HIMSELF OWNER OF CATTLE AND HORSES AND BEING DESIROUS OF POSSESSING A BRANDING IRON TO BRAND THE SAME WITH, PETITIONS YOUR HON. BODY TO GRANT HIM THE RIGHT TO USE A BRANDING IRON AS SHOWN ON THE MARGIN HEREOF.

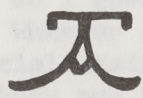
Dickman: I BEG OF YOU TO GRANT ME THIS PERMIT, ASSURING YOU THAT IT IS NOT DONE WITH MALICIOUS INTENT BUT FOR ITS NECESSITY.

Trescony: No, these grants were honored in all the California courts.

Dickman: THERE BEING NO APPROPRIATE SEALED PAPER IN MY POSSESSION THIS IS MADE ON ORDINARY PAPER. did you ever have a picture of him?

ALBERTO TRESCONY.

Trescony: THIS IS MADE ON ORDINARY PAPER. MONTEREY, MAY 5th, 1846. ON MARGIN APPEARS THE BRAND OR MARK, viz:--



Dickman: Tell us now about your paternal grandfather - Alberto's wife.

Trescony: AT THIS DAY'S SESSION THE ILLUSTRIOUS COUNCIL HAS GRANTED THE PETITIONER THE USE OF THE BRANDING IRON THAT IS SHOWN ON THE MARGIN.

LET THE SAME BE PLACED OF RECORD IN THE PROPER BOOK AND RETURN THE SAME TO THE INTERESTED PARTY FOR HIS PROTECTION.

MONTEREY, MAY 13, 1846.

J. S. ESCAMILLA
AMBROSIO GOMEZ, Secretary.

Dickman: Tell us about your maternal grandparents.

Trescony: RECORDED AT PAGE 1 OF THE RESPECTIVE VOLUME. made history in San Francisco as Alberto Trescony. He left the ESCAMILLA. Monterey. He left the
AMBROSIO GOMEZ, Secretary.

RECEIVED, ANTO MENDEZ.
PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL TAXES 12½ REALES.

Dickman: Did that become the Abbott House?

Trescony: That's right; the other part of the family inherited that property. The court appointed three men to appraise and distribute the Trescony properties. They were all good men who naturally couldn't look into the future. Some of this bottomland, then called wasteland, selling for \$1.50 an acre is today selling for \$1,500 to \$2,000 an acre. The other part of the family got more land, but my father got more productive land.

Dickman: Alberto Trescony owned the first building in the area that became Salinas and the whole city grew up around his property?

Trescony: That's right. That was the hotel later known as the Abbott House.

Dickman: I thought the correct spelling of the Italian name is Trisconi.

Trescony: That's correct. Some land grant documents from Washington were misspelled Trescony, so that's why the name is spelled differently than the original Italian spelling.

Dickman: Did you have any trouble establishing property rights?

Trescony: No, these grants were honored in all the California courts.

Dickman: One more question about your grandfather - did you ever have a picture of him?

Trescony: No. There was a certain superstition that if you had your picture taken you were going to die - so I guess they didn't take many, if any, pictures in those days. When my grandfather did die in Salinas in 1892, they chartered a special train from Salinas to San Lucas to the cemetery to bring the body and the pallbearers to the funeral.

Dickman: Tell us now about your paternal grandmother - Alberto's wife.

Trescony: I don't know much about my grandmother. She was a widowed Irish and English woman; her name was Rainey; she was a native of Monterey County and had two sons by a previous marriage. They were married and by that union they had my father and his two sisters.

The Aguirres - the Spanish Basque Influence

Dickman: Tell us about your maternal grandparents.

Trescony: My maternal grandfather, Juan Miguel Aguirre, made history in San Francisco as Alberto Trescony made it in Monterey. He left the

Trescony: state of Navarro in the Basque province with his wife Matilda. They came by boat around The Horn and landed in San Francisco in 1846 (four years after my grandfather Trescony landed in Monterey in 1842).

At that time they had no wells for water and my grandfather Aquirre was referred to in the history books as a water merchant. There were some springs in the sand hills out toward the Presidio in San Francisco. He packed water on burros to where the Sheraton Palace Hotel is now located and sold water for \$1.00 a pail. History books say he made as much as \$30 a day selling water.

He then enlarged his business by bringing water over on barges from Marin County. He built a hotel on the property where the White House was later located. (That was a large department store; the other one was the City of Paris.) This hotel was for French, Spanish and Basque people. My mother was born in that hotel.

Grandfather later sold the hotel for \$25,000 - it is now worth a couple of million dollars. With the money, he built another hotel on Clement Street.

He also built one of the first handball alleys--in those days they played a Spanish game called Chistero.

My other aunt, Rosa, married a man named J. W. Christal who had a drugstore and lived in Santa Cruz. There is a short street in the city of Santa Cruz named Trescony Street. There is also a residential area called the Christal Terrace. She died very young in childhood when her second child, a boy, was born. He was named Leo and his older sister was Anita. Anita married a man from Honolulu and lived in the Islands for many years.

Leo was an actor and made quite a reputation on the legitimate stage in the East. Later he inherited the Tufaritos grant as his share of the property, when it was divided in 1892. My cousin Anita inherited the San Benito grant which joins the San Lucas Ranch. They were both minors so my father and Uncle Johnson were trustees until they became thirty years of age.

Dickson: What were the birthdates of your brothers and sisters?

Trescony: My brother Albert was five years older than I. Another brother Louis was a year older than I and he died early in 1921. My sister Mercedes will celebrate her 92nd birthday this year. Her married name is Thurman; she lives in Santa Barbara and is in good health. She is four years older than I but has four times the energy I have -

II PARENTS AND THE BUILDING OF THE RANCHO SAN LUCAS

Country Gentleman - Julius, Sr.

Dickman: Your father's name was also Julius - tell us about his sisters (your aunts), the men they married, and their families.

Trescony: My aunt Theresa Trescony married a man named R. F. Johnson, the former mayor of El Paso, Texas, who later became mayor of Monterey three or four times. He was quite a politician, making many trips to Washington. He told me, "Son, in the future you can say that I was responsible for the Presidio of Monterey." My uncle had entertained Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders; they furnished them with horses and took them around Pebble Beach Drive. He was a very close friend of William Jennings Bryan.

My other aunt, Rose, married a man named J. W. Christal who had a drugstore and lived in Santa Cruz. There is a short street in the city of Santa Cruz named Trescony Street. There is also a residential area called the Christal Terrace. She died very young in childbirth when her second child, a boy, was born. He was named Leo and his older sister was Anita. Anita married a man from Honolulu and lived in the Islands for many years.

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Dickman: What were the birthdates of your brothers and sisters?

Trescony: My brother Albert was five years older than I. Another brother Louis was a year older than I and he died early in 1921. My sister Mercedes will celebrate her 92nd birthday this year. Her married name is Thurman; she lives in Santa Barbara and is in good health. She is four years older than I but has four times the energy I have -



Julius and his sister Mercedes Thurman at Rancho San Lucas.
Mercedes celebrated her 92nd birthday this year (1978).

Trescony: it's wonderful to live to that age and enjoy life. She is a widow and has a son, named James O'Brien, by her first marriage. He is retired and lives in Los Angeles.

Dickman: You were the youngest?

Trescony: Yes.

Dickman: Tell us about your mother.

Trescony: My mother's name was Katherine Aguirre. She was very religious; in fact, I feel she was a living saint. She wasn't interested in any worldly affairs. She had a beautiful voice - high soprano. I'd be out in the barn saddling my horse and I could hear my mother singing from this adobe house.

Before I was born, she made a trip to Spain with her father to the Basque country. At that time no woman had ever sung in the Catholic choir (it has since been changed). Because she did come back with her father to the village where he was raised (Irun), they allowed her to sing a couple of songs in the Sunday choir. She had a beautiful voice.

Dickman: What about your father?

Trescony: When I speak of my father, I don't think any father and son were closer than we were. He was my "father confessor." He knew everything I did and I told him everything. Although he didn't approve of everything I did, he was very, very good to me, and why I wasn't spoiled I'll never know. He was very generous to me--I was the baby of the family--that might have been one reason.

He didn't drive a car. I would drive him to State fairs, rodeos, and I remember distinctly his saying to me, "Son, when I wake up in the morning, I want to see you alongside of me." I never complained, I thought to myself, "He's a little bit older and fussier, and someday I'll want my children to do the same." Now I realize the importance of that request.

Dickman: When did your father and mother get married? How old were they?

Trescony: They were married in 1884. Dad was 27 and mother 25. When my father was in the sheep business and needed sheep herders, he would drive in a horse and buggy to Soledad (the train only came that far until 1886). He'd take the local train to San Francisco and stay at the Hotel Aguirre, where he met my mother. They were married in the Italian church in San Francisco. She came down here to live--this city girl--and lived here all the time.

Dickman: Was it a happy union, Julius, that your mother and father had?



My mother Katherine Aguirre Trescony - my inspiration.

- Trescony: Very happy. Their dispositions made it very possible. You couldn't argue with my mother. I could tell her a bareface lie and she'd believe me. There was no point telling her a lie, so I couldn't lie to her.
- Dickman: Your father was a hardworking man?
- Trescony: No, he was an administrator. In the early days it was a disgrace for an owner of property to work; he hired laborers.
- Albaugh: I met your father once, Julius, and he reminded me of a southern country gentleman; right?
- Trescony: That's right. He was always well dressed; traveled in a horse and buggy.
- Dickman: Where did your father go to school?
- Trescony: In Monterey where, during recess, all the children spoke Spanish, but in the classroom they had to speak English. During one recess, they all went down to the main street to see a lynched man hanging from a pole. He had robbed someone and was hanged by the vigilantes.
- Dickman: Did your father enjoy good health?
- Trescony: No, neither did my mother. At one time they were both sick and in the French hospital in San Francisco.

San Lucas - Trescony's Town

- Dickman: As I understand, your father moved to San Lucas in 1876 - raised sheep and cattle and also laid out the town of San Lucas; is that right?
- Trescony: Yes. He laid out all the streets, naming them after the Trescony family--Anita, Mary, Albert, Louis, Julius--they practically owned the town of San Lucas.
- Dickman: Did the town develop as he expected?
- Trescony: It did - it flourished. San Lucas was the big city-town; it was incorporated. It had a hotel (the Pleasantview), a restaurant, two livery stables, two blacksmith shops, a couple of churches, Chinese laundry, a small stationery store, a notary public, constable, doctor, a hardware store that sold windmills and pumps, six or seven saloons. During the summer on Sundays, the Knights



My Father - Julius Trescony, Sr. - The boss of Rancho San Lucas

Trescony: of Pythias band came down to San Lucas and played in the bandstand and entertained us with their music. It was quite a city; unfortunately, no provisions were made for water; the years went by, buildings burned down and King City took over. It made headway and became a larger city.

The railroad in those days came as far south as Soledad, as mentioned earlier, and as far north as San Luis Obispo--the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1887 they tunneled through some hills around San Luis Obispo and connected the railroad so that it went through from San Francisco to Los Angeles. I don't know where the actual joining took place.

My grandfather deeded a 12-mile right-of-way to the railroad, free of charge. He was anxious to have the railroad come through. He built a warehouse along the SP tracks. He also gave \$5,000 to open a road into the Lockwood area to get the grain from there to the San Lucas warehouse; they then took the grain to Soledad where it was put on the train. A few years ago this warehouse was considered a fire trap so it was torn down, and they gave me some of the lumber. This redwood lumber is over 100 years old--not a knot in it. I don't think you can buy that kind of wood today.

Dickman: Did your father build this adobe ranch house in which we are now visiting?

Trescony: Yes, my father built this in 1865. My dad came down with my aunt Theresa who was single at that time, and she designed the plans. My dad wanted a good adobe builder. One such individual was a man who had helped build the Washington Hotel. This man was very superstitious and would not ride the train so my father had to go by horse and buggy to Monterey to bring him to the ranch. The Italians and natives we had working on the ranch helped make the adobe bricks.

They used plain adobe soil, straw and sun dried them. They had no cement in those days but they used very hard rock, almost as hard as flint, right from our own quarry. I think the Indians used it for arrowheads. They used that as a foundation with lime.

This house was built right on the ground, there is no cellar. Every wall separating each room has a foundation of this hard rock and lime. My grandfather bought the grant in December 1862 and the house was built in 1865.

Dickman: Please describe the ranch as it is today.

Trescony: As I mentioned, this house, the barn and the blacksmith shop, all made of adobe, were built in 1865. In later years we built this adjoining house, a bunkhouse and a granary, all adobe. In those

Trescony: days we boarded our men for a dollar a day; we had a house for them to sleep in, with a big fireplace. We stored our seed grain in the granary for planting the following year. Harvested grain went into the San Lucas warehouse (this was where the railroad came through).

We've been told that this is the only ranch left where all of the buildings were made of adobe. Professor Loomis of Stanford, who was here 11 or 12 years ago, had made a study of adobe buildings in California. He said this was the only home, made of adobe, that is still standing. It was built with a great deal of care and the fire danger is not so great with a great deal of care. The buildings of the Trescony Ranch are very fine for horses and are of a very



The Trescony homestead near San Lucas, Monterey County, built in 1865 by Julius' father. The house and horse barn are of adobe. Beautiful Rancho San Lucas is always kept in excellent, immaculate condition.

Trescony: days we boarded our men for a dollar a day; we had a house for them to sleep in, with a big fireplace. We stored our seed grain in the granary for planting the following year. Harvested grain went into the San Lucas warehouse (this was after the railroad came through).

We've been told that this is the only ranch left where all of the buildings were made of adobe. Professor Leamis of Stanford, who was here 12 or 15 years ago, had made a study of adobe buildings in California. He said this was the only barn, made of adobe, that is still used as a barn. It had a shingle roof, but because of fire danger, it was replaced with a metal roof. Two sections of the barn that formerly had mangers for horses are now used as a garage for automobiles.

Pioneer Ranching

Dickman: How many head of cattle was your father running?

Trescony: At one time we ran 1500 head of cattle.

Dickman: How many sheep?

Trescony: The sheep business was before my time. I inherited the cattle business and later went into dry farming, too.

Dickman: Was there ever a period when they ran both cattle and sheep?

Trescony: Yes, running the cattle in the back country which was a little bit rough and the sheep in the open country.

They also raised wheat in the early days; we'd take the wheat to the San Miguel mill for processing into flour. Later they raised barley; all dry farming. The ranch was leased to tenants who farmed the land with horses.

Dickman: Did your dad use his horses on the ranch?

Trescony: We didn't have any horses; the tenants owned the horses. The Casey family had four eight-horse teams (32 head). It was quite a job during the rainy season to care for these horses. They had to be exercised, curried, fed and watered.

After my dad fired one of our ranch hands, Russ Cursnick, I had to take over his team. I wanted to do this to learn to drive six to eight horses. The only part I didn't like about driving horses was to curry a horse at night after dinner. Since we didn't work the horses on Sunday, that was the day we washed them and took care of the harness.

Trescony: My brother Luis who was a year older than I helped us with the horses; he got to be a pretty good harness man.

Dickman: You mentioned the tenants your father had.

Trescony: Yes, he had several tenants on the ranch that broke up the mesa land which is now being irrigated and producing vegetables and other crops. The tenants paid us a share of the crop for the use of the land. This grain was delivered to the warehouse in San Lucas.

Dickman: What persuaded your father to go into agriculture rather than into grazing?

Trescony: It was more profitable to raise grain. I remember when Dad plowed up the bunchgrass and a railroad conductor told him he'd be sorry.

Dickman: Do you think he ever was sorry?

Trescony: No. That land had to be farmed; didn't need bunchgrass; it had served its purpose. We still have some bunchgrass in the hills but not very much; it's very hardy grass.

Dickman: What's the benefit of this bunchgrass?

Trescony: In the fall of the year before it rains, it will start turning green, furnishing vitamin A and protein to the cattle. People claim it acted as a purgative for cattle over the dry season; that's why they made so much mention of this bunchgrass.

Our ranch feed is composed mostly of filaree and bur clover, both of them native of Spain. These two plants are very palatable and form a balanced ration. As I said before, tenants farmed our ranch. This was done with horses that pulled plows, harrows, disks and drills. Over the years we learned that summer fallowing our land was a good practice because it can conserve two years of moisture and this was enough to produce a good crop. In other words, half the ranch land was idle and half in crop each year.

Dickman: Did your father later buy horses?

Trescony: Yes, my father was a lover of good driving and stock horses. As a result, he invested in a standardbred stallion named Robin. He was a well-dispositioned horse, bred to quite a few mustang mares or native California horses. The crossing of the standardbred with the mustang mares gave us a good stock of road horses. We also took in outside mares to breed as a sideline. I think we bred 30 to 40 mares per year.

Albaugh: What was the charge for this service?

Trescony: Yes, I was given a new saddle when I graduated from Santa Clara University, which I still have.

Trescony: Fifty dollars.

Albaugh: That was high in those days.

Trescony: That included the feed to pasture them in a field that we now use for cattle. We used to spay some of our saddle mares.

Dickman: You say you spayed your mares?

Trescony: Dr. Outhier, our county veterinarian, was the only one who knew how to perform this surgery. The mare had to be around two years old before she was spayed. In spaying, the mare generally had straight underline and, of course, they didn't come in heat. I owned a couple of spayed mares and rode them at rodeos.

Dickman: Why don't more ranchers do that?

Trescony: It's too expensive and there is some risk of mortality, too.

Dickman: Did you own any Percheron horses?

Trescony: No, but one of my tenants did. He raised Percheron draft horses. They were good ones. He had matched teams and got good money for them--six to seven hundred dollars a pair. He is one man I knew who sold horses for top prices and bought iron equipment at low prices.

Albaugh: Was your father a good horseman, Julius?

Trescony: A pretty fair horseman. He loved to ride horseback, although not a rough rider.

Albaugh: A good cattleman?

Trescony: Yes, he enjoyed cattle and enjoyed teaching me. He was great for remembering certain animals. They weren't as they are now, the same color.

Albaugh: He must have had a very retentive memory.

Trescony: Yes, and he trained me to remember. He'd say to me, "Do you remember that steer I told you about? The one with the blue eyes?"

Albaugh: Didn't you inherit your father's saddle?

Trescony: Yes, I did - it has a padded seat; do you still see many of those, Marion?

Stanley: Padded seats are more popular now than they were in the old days.

Dickman: Did you have a saddle of your own?

Trescony: Yes, I was given a new saddle when I graduated from Santa Clara University, which I still have.

Trescony: learned from the other about her duties. We went through four sisters and three cousins over a period of 18-20 years.

Dickman: Did you like school, Julius?

Trescony: Yes - I started school at age seven and knew only a few words in English such as "good morning" and "good night." My folks did not speak English, but French, Spanish and Italian; my mother also spoke Basque. However, I had a very retentive memory. I could memorize anything, went through school in a hurry. That wasn't good; I think if a student has to work hard to get something out of a book, he retains it longer.

Childhood Years

Dickman: From whom did you inherit that wonderful memory?

Dickman: Julius, what kind of a youngster were you? Describe yourself as a child.

Trescony: I don't want to tell you everything about me. Do you suppose I'm going to say anything "bad" about myself? I can't very well do that - I'm my own agent; I was very energetic; very nervous and high strung and I still am.

Albaugh: And you're one of the most positive-minded men I have ever met; you do not tolerate complaining people.

Dickman: When you were growing up, Julius, you had servants in the house?

Trescony: Yes. My father employed a Portuguese from the sheep camp. My mother taught him how to cook, and this might sound strange, but he did everything--the cooking, ironing, washing, baking--that a woman would do--plus he helped to raise us four children. He was with us about 20 years.

Dickman: He was the boss! My parents never laid a hand on us. We did what he said. He had a little whistle which I have framed here, and when we were outside playing, he blew that whistle and we'd run to the house. If we were playing with the neighbor's children, they ran home. I don't mean to say that he was mean, but he was very strict, though affectionate.

Trescony: On Saturdays we cleaned the chicken houses, took care of the chickens and turkeys; after meals we helped wash and dry the dishes. We were kept busy all the time.

Later we had girls come from Spain, friends of my mother's. We'd pay their passage and they would come out to work as cooks, etc., in our house. In one instance there were four sisters; one stayed about a year; then the next sister took her place and

Trescony: learned from the other about her duties. We went through four sisters and three cousins over a period of 18-20 years.

Dickman: Did you like school, Julius?

Trescony: Yes - I started school at age seven and knew only a few words in English such as "good morning" and "good night." My folks did not speak English, but French, Spanish and Italian; my mother also spoke Basque. However, I had a very retentive memory that got me through the lower grades. I could memorize anything, went through school in a hurry. That wasn't good; I think if a student has to work hard to get something out of a book, he retains it longer.

Dickman: From whom did you inherit that wonderful memory?

Trescony: I can't tell you. I was an avid reader which enabled me to make two grades in one year. I got my ninth grade diploma in San Lucas in a hay loft over a livery stable. I was the only graduate from the Alberto School (named after my grandfather). There was also Jack Copley's wife from Hames Valley and another student from Bradley and some in San Ardo.

Dickman: Why was the school named after your grandfather?

Trescony: My grandfather left four acres to be used as a school; it was located about two and a half miles north of the ranch house on a beautiful spot; great big live oak trees. Later it ceased being used as a school and the property reverted to the ranch. I can't tell you the year when we unionized the schools and built a new school in San Lucas.

The Linguist - Six Tongues

Dickman: You mentioned the four languages you spoke when you first started school--Italian, French, Basque and Spanish. Did you learn these just from your parents?

Trescony: My father was Italian and his father also taught him to speak French which he had learned in Paris. We also had Italians working for us as well as the Portuguese man I mentioned earlier and the girls from Spain--they spoke Spanish, French and Basque. So.....I heard Italian and Spanish outside and in the house I heard French and Basque.

Spanish was the first language I learned, and I like it. I think I can express myself better in Spanish than in English, my mother's language. Later I picked up Swiss and Portuguese.

Dickman: Was that because your grandfather lived near the Swiss border and he taught it to your father?

Trescony: Yes. When you know a few of the Latin languages, it is rather easy to learn others because there is a certain similarity. For example, the words "it is cold," the Swiss say "fretch," the French say "sa froie" and the Spanish say, "hace frio." They all start with the letter "f"- I'm not saying there's this similarity in all the words, but if you know a couple of Latin languages, you can stumble and get along with the others, including using your hands.

You know, the Europeans say this of us Americans, "You are just like a cow; you have only one tongue."

Albaugh: Say that in Spanish, Julius, I've heard you say it many times.

Trescony: Los Europeanos dicen de nosotros que, "Ustedes son como una vaca, no mas tienen una lengua," como ellos siempre hablan a los menos dos o tres idiomas--they speak two or three languages.

Dickman: What did you do for recreation as a boy?

Trescony: The games we played were very simple. The main recreation was with horses - we either rode or drove them. Most of my friends lived on cattle ranches; every boy's goal was to be a good roper. Branding time each year was a festive occasion; each neighbor helped the other with this chore; this custom still exists today.

I loved to ride horseback. At one time we ran about 1500 cattle on our ranch and I rode practically every day with an Indian boy--long rides, too.

Albaugh: Who taught you horsemanship, Julius?

Trescony: Men like Juan Bravo, Antone Garcia and Vicente Feliz. They were not only good horsemen and excellent teachers, but they were very strict. If you made a mistake, you heard about it. They were very particular. I was glad for that--these masters taught me how to handle horses.

Albaugh: Tell us about Vicente and the well-reined horse.

Trescony: Vicente was riding one of these well-reined horses when he came upon an old mossy-horned steer up in the high peaks of the Pancho Rico country. As he was closing in to rope this steer, a wide gulch loomed in the foreground. The steer successfully negotiated the gulch, but as the horse started across, Vicente saw that he could not make the jump. Halfway across the gulch, while still in midair, he turned the horse around and took him back to the side where he started the jump. Vicente loved to recount incidents such as this.

Dickman: That's quite a horse! How old were you when you first rode a horse?

Trescony: About seven years old; I also rode a horse to school when my brother didn't take us in the buggy.

My Teachers and their Influence

Dickman: How large was your school?

Trescony: About 34 pupils in the school; one room--nine grades.

Dickman: Do you remember any of your teachers?

Trescony: Yes. My first teacher lived in San Lucas in the Pleasantview Hotel; she kept her saddle horse in the livery stable and rode out six and a half miles each way to school--13 miles a day. Her name was Miss Locqua, a rather young girl; I kind of liked her at that--she was nice.

One year we boarded a teacher here on the ranch, a Miss Monroe. I remember her--very stylish, extremely prude, a very proper person.

Dickman: Julius, how did you get to high school?

Trescony: I didn't go to high school; I went to a preparatory school in Santa Clara. I missed the fun of girls in high school; the only fun I had was in grammar school and I was too young.

Santa Clara - My Days of Higher Learning

Dickman: How did you get to Santa Clara to attend this preparatory school?

Trescony: For six years we rented a house in San Jose at 330 South 6th Street, alongside where the State University is now located. During the summer and winter vacations we came back to the ranch. The Spanish girls from the ranch came up to do the cooking and other work; they were excellent servants.

I took a streetcar to and from Santa Clara every day. I was a day scholar. They had about 300 boarders.

I think at that time it was a school for the incorrigibles (and I'm not saying this to hurt the Jesuits, our instructors), but they had some rough, tough guys there. I think when the parents couldn't handle their children they sent them to the Jesuits to keep them more or less under lock and key.

Trescony: I was a "green pea" coming from a ranch. And it didn't take long for these fellows to figure me out and make me a rum runner--carrying mail backwards and forwards. And I did it because I was scared of those big guys.

I wore knee pants--in those days we didn't wear longs--you folks remember that?

Dickman: Sure, I remember.

Trescony: These big fellows--I remember some from the Hawaiian Islands and they also came from Mexico. Very rich people--they wore wonderful silk stockings, low-cut shoes, polished, too. Oh, they were rough; tough. They would start fires in the classroom while the teacher was at the blackboard.

Albaugh: Didn't you make some kind of a record up there, throwing a baseball?

Trescony: Yes, I did. I didn't care for baseball; I liked handball and enjoyed swimming and, of course, I loved to dance. Charley Fein was in my class; he was an ambidexterous pitcher. He wanted to teach me to play baseball, but I wanted no part of it.

Each year they had an intramural athletic go around before the season opened. For two years in succession I won the baseball throw. Don't know how I did it, against Hal Chase or Martinelli; Hal was the premier first baseman in those days.

Albaugh: Do you remember how far you threw the ball?

Trescony: No, but I remember beating Hal Chase and Martinelli; they practiced all the time and I never trained for the event.

Dickman: How old were you when you went to Santa Clara?

Trescony: I started school at seven; went through the first nine grades when I was 12; went to Santa Clara, spent two years in Junior College and then four years to the college. I was about 14 years old when I entered the college; graduated in 1909, with a degree in Bachelor of Arts. I was 18--the youngest graduate with this degree.

Dickman: Did you ever have any trouble while in college?

Trescony: No, I think I was very careful not to want to get into any trouble, because I knew the consequences. The Jesuits were very strict; if two boys got to fighting, they would make them finish that fight and then shake hands.

Dickman: The Jesuits did that?

Trescony: Yes. They were very strong on that part. Get it over with--go in the gym, put on some gloves and have it out, then shake hands.

Albaugh: Did you make good grades, Julius?

Trescony: Yes, I did pretty well. I didn't make any maximum cum laudes, however. There was one boy in my class that did, and that was Morris Dooling who later was our State Superior Court Judge. His father has been a judge in San Benito County; very bright boy, he won that distinction of maximum cum laude.

The students were very cooperative. For example, during my graduating year, I cut classes but with their help and cramming, I graduated.

Albaugh: And you made it?

Trescony: Yes, I made it. There were some very famous men enrolled at Santa Clara--Ciro Smith, son of Governor Smith of the Philippines; baseball player Maltmon, played with the New York Yankees; a man by the name of Brown, big boy, was one of the first pioneers in airplanes; he was killed up here in Mt. Diablo.

I had some very wonderful professors. Father Ricardo was a great scientist who discovered the sun spot theory; a theologian, too. He told me then, "I'll have to die before they ever adopt this practice." And he did have to pass away before it was adopted.

Father had an observatory in the enclosure of the gardens in Santa Clara. He had students designated to take readings at a certain time of the day to make his observations. He kept his place spotless. Once I was smoking a cigarette, flipped it down, walked over and stepped on it--he was watching me. I told him, "Why do you have to be so fussy and keep this place so immaculate?"

He hit me on the chest and said, "Young man, a man's surroundings beseeches a man himself." I never forgot that. I liked him and I think he liked me.

I told Father Ricardo when I graduated, "I don't think I'll ever get married, but if I do, I want you to tie the knot. He came to San Francisco, to the cathedral and married Maria and me. Several times he came to the ranch to visit us. He gave me that thermometer hanging out on the porch.

Albaugh: What subjects did you like the best, Julius, while in college?

Trescony: I certainly did not like Greek and Latin. I liked mathematics, until they got into calculus, but I got by--I had a hard time because that subject didn't interest me.

Dickman: When did you first start going out with girls?

- Trescony: I think I liked them from the start.
- Albaugh: That's enough answer, Julius.
- Trescony: I think so. I think I liked them always; can't remember when I didn't.
- Albaugh: Did your father and mother entertain in San Francisco at the
- Dickman: What were the dating practices then?
- Trescony: Going to a Catholic boys institution we had to get our dance partners from other schools. I became acquainted with high school girls and got invitations to their parties. These high school dances were formal; you didn't go unless you wore a tuxedo. I do believe, and you may think I'm exaggerating, if you had liquor on your breath, the girls would not dance with you. They were very particular; you had to fill out a dance program with the girls. I used to get invitations from friends in other colleges. My father bought me a tuxedo and full vest; he paid \$75 for the two and said to me, "Son, if you can't pay your way, stay away."
- Albaugh: Were there any fraternities?
- Trescony: Yes, but I didn't belong to one. We had a vacation on Thursday instead of Saturday; they were strict.
- Dickman: How would you take the girl home after a dance? Horse and buggy?
- Trescony: No, I didn't have a horse and buggy up there, nor a car. We walked or took a streetcar. The first horseless vehicle I bought was a motorcycle. Anybody knows in that day an Indian motorcycle was like riding a bucking horse; rough riding.
- Dickman: Did you get an allowance from your father while attending college?
- Trescony: Not a specified amount. When we needed money, we had to give a special reason for it; if satisfactory, we got the money.
- Dickman: How old were you when you bought your first automobile?
- Trescony: The first car that the family bought was a Ford, in 1912; then we owned a Cadillac. They were all right-hand drives. My first car was a Cadillac Roadster; four cylinder; water cooled--the girls liked it.
- Dickman: You were raised a Catholic. Where did you attend Mass?
- Trescony: We didn't have Mass every Sunday. The priest came on the local train where we met him; he'd stay the night and then we took him into town where he said Mass and returned that afternoon to Salinas or Monterey. There was a little church in San Lucas and

Trescony: another one in San Ardo; on some Sundays Mass would be held in San Antonio Mission, and when it was held there we took food along, barbecued meat and made a day of it. Took a spring wagon and two horses. I have on my porch here the front and back seats of that spring wagon.

Albaugh: Did your father and mother entertain in San Francisco at the Palace Hotel or any of those places?

Trescony: They had friends in the city; in those days when people entertained, they stayed for a day or two, visiting. In this present fast-moving era people don't have time to visit as in the old days.

Albaugh: Did you have big parties here at the ranch? fiestas and those types of festivities when you were growing up?

Trescony: I don't remember that we did; neighborhood kids would come down and play.

Dickman: Did you go to town much?

Trescony: No we didn't - no reason to. We were self-supporting; had our own butter, milk, meat and eggs; my father cut our hair. We were very happy and the reason was because we were kept busy. (Nowadays we go to town every day and buy what we need in the store).

Rodeos - My Favorite Sport

Dickman: Did you ever have any accidents as a youngster?

Trescony: Yes - I had several horses fall with me, but the worst injury was some broken ribs. I was lucky, very very lucky....and it wasn't the horses fault either--slippery ground or maybe I pulled him too hard for which I take the blame.

Dickman: Did you ride horses in the rodeo?

Trescony: Yes, I went up with the first contingent in 1911 which started the Salinas Rodeo (it is now called the California Rodeo). Most of the performers at that first rodeo were from southern Monterey County. Cattlemen and cowboys from Bradley, San Ardo and San Lucas--43 of us--rode horseback to this event.

No one knew anything about rodeos; we just went up there to have fun--ride some bulls, bucking horses and exhibit our roping skills. My good friend Walter Lynch of Tierra Redondo country and I won the first team roping.

Albaugh: Did you head or heel?

Trescony: I heeled.

Dickman: Then this was the beginning of the famous Big Week?

Trescony: Yes. I remember riding into Salinas in September 1911, going down the main street, above where the Elks first had their lodge. The big clock said twenty minutes to six, down the main (dirt) street; wooden sidewalks; hitching posts and watering troughs. That was my initiation going down the main street of Salinas in 1911 - that's hard to believe.

Albaugh: Did you go down East of Eden?

Trescony: Yes, we did. We let the folks know we were in town, if that's what you mean.

Albaugh: That's what I mean. Do you remember who some of the cowboys were that made that first trip with you?

Trescony: Yes. I hate to say this but all those who rode with me to this first Wild West Show are all gone--the Redmonds, Taylors, Lynches and the Breens. Ed Breen deserves most of the credit for starting the California Rodeo. Other cattlemen of Monterey County--the Abbotts and Bardins, Butch Beavers--all of Salinas, were also instrumental in starting this rodeo. Eventually an organization was formed and some of the Board of Directors were Henry Lynch, my father, Sam Mathews and his brother, Harvey Abbott and Arthur Hebbren.

After the first or second year, the rodeo was in debt \$7000 and these men absorbed the loan to carry on.

Albaugh: Julius, I understand you've attended every "Big Week" since it was first organized?

Trescony: Yes, I hold the distinction of attending every rodeo since 1911. One of the main reasons I go to this show is to see and visit my friends and reminisce about old times. That is very enjoyable to me.

Dickman: How does the California Rodeo differ from the old days?

Trescony: The contestants today are more professional and it is their life's work--they make their living following the suicide circuit. In the old days performing at rodeos was an avocation. Cowboys today also have extremely well trained horses; there is a saying that in roping, the horse represents 75 percent of the qualifications.

Dickman: I understand you did trick riding. Tell us about it.

The dancing caballero, about 1925, on a finished and well trained Trescony horse. The rigging and other equipment consist entirely of California vaquero style.



The dashing caballero, about 1920, on a finished and well reined Trescony horse. The rigging and other equipment depict early California vaquero style.

Trescony: About a year after the Salinas Rodeo started, I went to King City to a circus and saw a Cossock do some trick riding. I figured if he could do it, I could, too. So my Indian friend whom I mentioned earlier and I went out to a stubble field where we started to practice. This area was filled with badger and squirrel holes. The only thing that made me look good was my good horse Chapo. He would run straight and true. He was so well trained that during Big Week I rode him into a bank in Salinas without a bridle or saddle, cashed a check and rode out. This is what you call "discipline" to the nth degree. Chapo had confidence in me.

So I entered the trick riding event at the Salinas Rodeo the following year, 1913. I won first place for two years in a row. The prize money was \$75 which was a lot in those days. I had a lot of fun and spent the money right there in Salinas.

Albaugh: Julius, was Chapo a standardbred horse?

Trescony: No, he was out of a Mustang mare; a native stallion. I bought him--gave three horses for him. He was young; got him from the Milpitas Ranch.

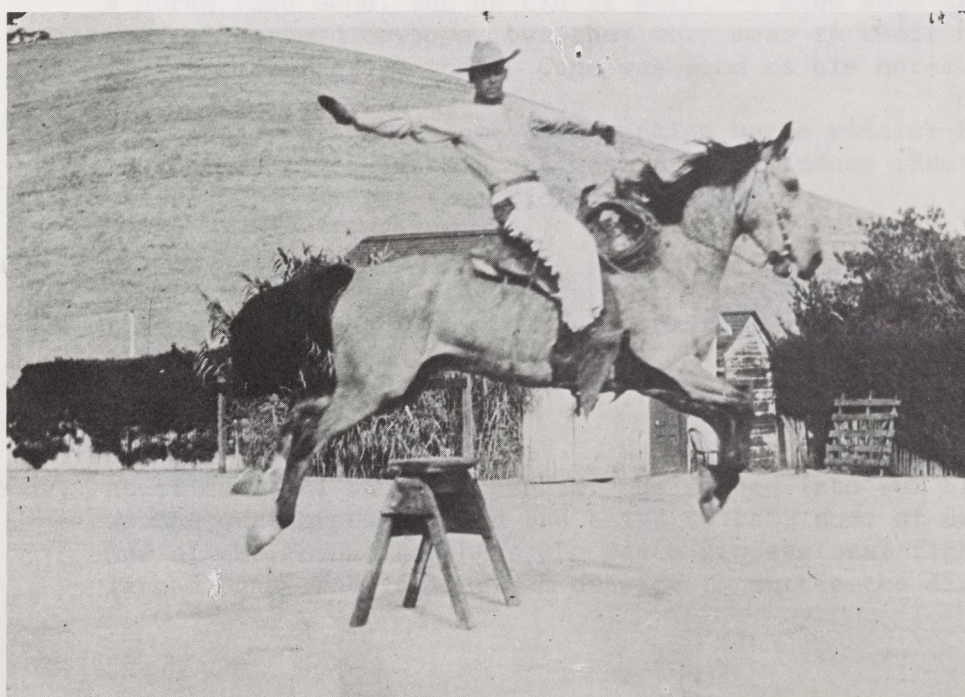
Top Hands I Have Met

Albaugh: Julius, tell us about some of the outstanding rodeo performers at those early years at the Salinas Big Week.

Trescony: Clyde Taylor of Parkfield was a champion bull dogger. Oscar Redmond was a top bull rider. Harold and Don Lynch were both good ropers, and also rode bucking horses. Curley Fletcher was another bull rider. He later published a book of cowboy poems, the most famous of which was the Strawberry Roan, which became a classic cowboy song. Johnny Judd did trick and fancy roping. I rode up the track on my cow horse Chapo, without a bridle - just a rope around his neck, and Judd would make neck and leg catches as I galloped past him. Happy Jack Hawn was somewhat of a professional, and he had a big white horse that he used to snub the bucking horses. Abe Lefton was our clown, and later became famous as a rodeo announcer. Bert Sooy, who deserves the credit for being most responsible for the Cow Palace, gave a silver cup every year for the best reined cow horse. I was fortunate enough to win this award one year with a bay horse that I broke here on the ranch. We had lots of fun performing as amateurs. Now I enjoy sitting in the grandstand and watching the professionals perform.



Julius, champion trick rider, in 1914 at the Salinas Rodeo on "Chapo."



Julius on "Bayo" - his versatile cow horse equipped California style.

Albaugh: Who was the best corral roper you remember? Was Sam Mathews one of them?

Trescony: Sam Mathews was the best figure eighter I ever knew. In recent years I've seen some good figure eighting in Bolado Park. Sam Mathews could sit on his horse and we'd run 10-11 steers by him--he never missed a steer; caught them all; figure eighted them as they came by. There were also some other very good ropers, such as the Lynch brothers.

Albaugh: Compare the bucking horses of today to those of yesteryear.

Trescony: The horses didn't buck as hard as they do now. One reason is they didn't use the flank strap; in the olden days the bucking horse was blindfolded and snubbed to the saddle horn of a gentle horse in the center of the arena. After the rider mounted, the blind-fold was taken off and the horse turned loose. Today, all bucking horses are bucked out of the chutes; this makes for a faster show.

Albaugh: Who was the greatest all-around cowboy that you can remember during your lifetime?

Trescony: There were some good ones. Happy Jack Hawn was one of them--he won many events at the Salinas rodeo.

Albaugh: Would Gene Rambo be one of the top hands?

Trescony: One of the best. I don't think anybody was able to do more on a horse than Gene, and he did it well. I knew some that were good all-around cowboys, but they were mean to their horses and I didn't appreciate that. Gene was good to his horse.

There were also some good bucking horse riders--Perry Ivory was one of them; Jesse Stahl wasn't a tremendous rider but this colored cowpoke got fame riding Glass Eye.

Albaugh: He was a showman?

Trescony: Yes he was. That famous picture of Stahl riding Glass Eye went all over the United States.

Albaugh: It's in one of my books!

Trescony: At times Stahl was lighthanded. He'd come into our barns where we had our horses stabled and tried to take some of our equipment. One of the Cornet Brothers who was a professional fighter, challenged Stahl and invited him outside to settle the dispute. (Stahl

Trescony: didn't know Cornet was a pro.) The brawl took place in the street near a fruitstand. When it was over, the fruit was scattered all over the sidewalk and the colored boy was knocked out. That taught Jesse a lesson - he stayed on the straight and narrow after that. There were several colored boys in those days.

Albaugh: Ty Stokes was one of them?

Trescony: Yes, and Felix Cooper was another--a top bull dogger.

Albaugh: Who were some of the good trainers of bridle horses during your time? Was Charley Maggini one of them?

Trescony: Charley was as good as they come. There were several boys that were very good. Sam Mathews, Jr., one year had a very wonderful reined horse. They had hackamore classes and the rein events as they do today.

Albaugh: Jim O'Connell--do you remember him?

Trescony: Jim had a very good pinto mare named Kitty.

Albaugh: She was sired by a government remount stallion, Wild Melody.

Trescony: There were many other good trainers, but Charley Maggini was hard to beat. He was as good a horseman as I knew--in fact, I once gave him a horse and he made him a champion, too.

Albaugh: Julius, I know you've always liked bridle horses and you've judged them. Is this horse unusual to California?

Trescony: Yes. In the early days they handmade their bridle "bits." Agapito was a very famous "bit" maker in this country. In fact, I've got a bit in the office that my father obtained for another bit and also gave him some money, too.

Judging the Equine

Albaugh: Tell us about your unusual experience judging rein horses at the State Fair.

Trescony: I had been a participant at the cow horse contest in Salinas and had won several prizes. The president of the California Rodeo, Arthur Hebbren had seen me exhibit reined horses as well as do some trick riding. When I retired from these two events, Hebbren asked me to judge the cow horses at the Salinas Rodeo. After I finished this assignment, the secretary of the California State Fair who was in attendance asked my father if I would be interested in judging this event in Sacramento.

Trescony: Since he was a good friend of my father's and Hebbren's I agreed to do the judging at the State Fair for only one year. There were 17 horses to be evaluated - I kept eliminating animals as I said to each contestant, "I want you to show your horse off as you do in your own corral or near your own barn; show me what you can do with your horse." Then I threw another horse out, and someone said, "You can't throw him out, he belongs to the governor."

I replied, "I don't care if he belongs to the President of the United States, he doesn't belong here." And out he went.

The contestants also kept telling me about this one big strawberry roan horse and said he'd been winning everywhere. I said, "If he's that good, he'll win here, too."

Before we got too far along in the judging, I said to the contestants, "Take off your saddles and bridles; I want to examine the horses' mouth." In a way I wanted them to think I was a professional. I did know something about horses, but I wanted them to believe I was an expert judge and build up my prestige and ego a little bit.

Then up came this big strawberry roan I had been hearing about, and I noticed a particular movement in his tail. Upon investigation, I found a large chunk of lead securely and secretly tied in the hair. This was to prevent the horse from switching his tail. Those kinds of horses belong in Hollywood. We California horsemen don't tolerate a switch tail horse--they've been spoiled--too much spurring and heavy hands. I was really surprised to find this switch tail horse, so I said to the rest of the contestants, "Now, here's what I find; how about this boy and horse?" No one said a word. I continued, "All right, if you want to show this horse, you can, but Abe Lefton will announce that you're showing him with a chunk of lead in his tail." Never saw him again; he disappeared. I thought he might want to lick me, but didn't.

So that established my reputation in California as a horse judge. Now they have some very good men judging these classes with good rules to follow. We didn't have any rules then. Rube, you remember that?

Albaugh: Yes I do, but you didn't like a switch tail?

Trescony: They're all right in Hollywood, but certainly not on a cow ranch.

Albaugh: Didn't you win the Bert Sooy prize for one of your horse contests?

Trescony: Yes, and this man Bert Sooy, an attorney, a blacksmith, and always a champion of the cowman was one of the greatest citizens

Trescony: in California and booster of the California Rodeo. During the days of the Great Depression, alone and single-handed, Bert obtained funds and established the Cow Palace in San Francisco. In addition to featuring and sponsoring great livestock shows, the Cow Palace holds many other activities that entertains millions of people each year. Bert Sooy was a champion!

Uncle Sam Calls - I Join the Navy

Dickman: You were in World War I, Julius?

Trescony: Because of my agricultural interest, I was deferred and this allowed me to serve on the draft board in King City. In this capacity I signed up many local boys, and the first thing I knew most of my friends had been inducted. I said to myself, "I'm not doing anybody any good here; if they go, I should also." And I wanted to. So I told my dad, "I want to join up--in the Air Corp." He approved, so I gave him the power of attorney, sold my cattle, collected my money and went to San Francisco.

First I went to the Army and the enlistments were closed. I went to Market Street, the Balboa Building and walked into the Navy headquarters, unannounced, unheralded, "Here I am, can you use me?"

I filled out a form and the doctor examined me. I was three or four pounds underweight. He said, "Can you eat bananas and drink milk?"

"Yes," I replied.

Go up town, eat a few bananas and drink milk; come back in an hour or two and we'll weigh you again." I passed. In reviewing my application, they saw I could speak and write in French and Spanish and they said, "You're just the man we need." By then I didn't know if I was going to scrub decks or what I was going to do, but I didn't care; I was going to take my chances. Later I learned I was to be assigned to the Intelligence Department.

I might add that my Uncle Bob Johnson had told me, "When you get ready, I'll get you a promotion." I didn't want to use his influence to get ahead; I wanted to do it on my own and let my guardian angel take care of me.

I told my company commander, "I want to go to France." I was told we'd be over there in a couple of weeks. I spent 10-11 months in San Francisco; never moved.



I spy for the U.S. Navy Intelligence Department.

One of my assignments was to go to Phoenix, Arizona, to act as an interpreter for the Lieutenant Commander. This time I interpreted codes. I also spent a lot of time going through letters, especially those written in Spanish. This was an easy job because I know the language well.

Albaugh: What did you do in the Intelligence Department?

Trescony: I went to work in civilian clothes, as I wasn't supposed to be identified with the office. I wore a uniform at my discretion; it was just a job, third class. A lot of people don't remember this, but in 1918, there was no dancing on Sundays in San Francisco, city ordinance. And prohibition came along that time, where you couldn't serve alcohol at a table where a uniformed man was sitting.

Dickman: When did you first meet Marie?

Trescony: Our head man was an Annapolis graduate, a bachelor who lived in San Francisco. I did make a trip down by the Mexican border with one of the officers; I was more of a flunky than anything else. I was to act as an interpreter in Spanish. Upon reaching the border and interviewing this man, we found he could speak English as well as I did. It was a waste of money going down there; went on the train.

Dickman:

Albaugh: Did you learn anything that would help the war effort?

Dickman:

Trescony: Yes, I picked up a typewriter and learned to use it a little. I learned to keep my eyes and ears open and to observe and listen to all I could. At that time many patriotic girls were enlisting in the Red Cross for overseas duty. In order to obtain this duty, the girls had to pass a very strict medical examination. It was my job to ascertain if the doctors and girls involved were loyal to the United States.

Trescony:

As I said before, I wanted so very much to go to France. I again went to my Lieutenant Commander and asked him to sign an application for me to go to France, as they had promised me. He said, "I'll sign it; am going to Washington for ten days and when I return I'll see what I can do." I begged, "I'll shine your shoes, drive your side car; I'll do anything to get over there."

Dickman:

Trescony: Upon returning from Washington my commander informed me my application was denied. The fellows in the office thought I was a damned fool to want to cross the pond. "If you stay here," they'd say, "you won't have to work hard and you don't have to take any chances."

Trescony:

I still wanted to go to France so I made another application which was never approved.

Dickman:

Trescony: One of my assignments was to go to Phoenix, Arizona, to act as an interpreter for the Lieutenant Commander. This time I interpreted codes. I also spent a lot of time going through letters, especially those written in Spanish. This was an easy job because I knew the language well.

Dickman: So you were in the service a little over a year?

Trescony: No, I joined in February and was discharged in November.

I Take a Bride

Dickman: When did you first meet Marie?

Trescony: I met her in King City. Her parents lived east of King City, in an area they call Lonoak. Her folks were in the cattle business; her name was Griffin (Irish).

Dickman: You were married in 1920; how long had you known her?

Trescony: Not too long. I didn't think I'd ever marry.

Dickman: Why?

Trescony: I didn't want to get married. In fact, there are several girls living today that tell me I said that. You know Liz, Rube; met her during the first World War.

It was very fortunate that I married Marie. She was a bright, smart and wonderful person. She was my inspiration, and I mean that sincerely. If I have anything today, I think she deserves every bit of it. She wrote all my letters, grammatically corrected them, and in those days we didn't grab the telephone as we do now; we wrote letters and answered them. It was a slower world than it is now.

Dickman: Tell us about the Griffins, Marie's family.

Trescony: They were Catholics; very religious; lived in Lonoak; they were well known and liked; well respected; nice people. They had several cattle ranches. Unfortunately, the depression came, and you know what happened? Bank of Italy made a lot of promises they never kept. My father-in-law Joseph Griffin was an outstanding cattleman; he owed a lot of money. Despite his ranching ability the bank foreclosed and took his ranch. I was in the same situation; owed a lot of money at one time.

Dickman: Do you remember your marriage, the ceremony, where it was held?

Trescony: We were married in the cathedral in San Francisco; they have a new one now. Father Ricardo, as I mentioned earlier, married us. We went to Yosemite Valley on our honeymoon, and I got sick. That's a hell of a note for a guy to get sick on his honeymoon!



As we were when the wedding bells rang.

Trescony: Something to do with the water in the Valley at that time; lots of people got ill. I got over it.

Dickman: Will you give us the names of your children and their birthdates.

Trescony: My oldest son Luis was born January 27; he's now 57. Mario was born December 8; he's 50; I lost a son, Raymond; and then Julian is the youngest and he's 49.

Dickman: How did you select those names?

Trescony: My wife had a lot to do with it; they're Spanish names--Luis and Mario--could be Italian or Spanish. Julian is Spanish.

The Deed was a Mexican Grant

Dickman: Does the title to the Rancho San Lucas come down from your grandfather Alberto to your father; how does the title pass?

Trescony: In my grandfather's will the title was vested to the grandchildren; my father and mother only had life interest.

Dickman: Was that customary?

Trescony: In a few cases; not too many. And by that fact, the land should have never been mortgaged, legally.

Dickman: Any special reason that it came to the grandchildren?

Trescony: My grandfather had made the statement, "I don't want to see my grandchildren out on the street."

Dickman: Then in 1928 you bought out your brother Albert?

Trescony: Yes, we were having our differences because of Albert's wife (she was unable to get along with our family). Furthermore, Albert and my dad were not too congenial.

I said to Albert, "The place isn't big enough for both of us; either you buy me out or I'll buy you out." He agreed, so I paid him \$50,000 for his interest.

Here again my guardian angel came to my rescue. Here's how it happened. We deepened a water well down at the end of a lane and struck gas. I called Howard Jacks, a big land owner east of Paso Robles, who had experience in leasing property for oil drilling purposes. Howard and a representative from the Associate Oil Company visited the ranch and I was able to make a lease of \$1 per acre on 11,000 acres. I insisted this money be paid in advance for three years. It took several

Trescony: ...to complete this deal, but in the end the Bank of Italy got 347,000 and I received \$15,000. This was a great help in satisfying my creditors.

The Great Depression - Heavy Indebtedness



The Trescony Family, left to right, Julius, Julian, Marie, Mario and Luis.

Trescony: I hope this young generation doesn't experience one. Because no one knows what a depression is unless he goes through it. Huh, you remember it?

Albaugh: Yes, everybody was broke.

Trescony: During the Depression we had no social security, nor Medicare-- food stamps, etc. You had what you had and if you didn't, you were out. You could hire a man but couldn't pay him. Things were tough.

Trescony: months to complete this deal, but in the end the Bank of Italy got \$42,000 and I received \$36,000. This was a great help in satisfying my creditors.

The Great Depression - Heavy Indebtedness

Dickman: When was it mortgaged and what were the circumstances?

Trescony: As I said before, my grandfather left the ranch to the grandchildren and it should never have been mortgaged, so I used this legal technicality to keep the bank from foreclosing. Eventually I assumed a mortgage of \$317,000--that was a lot of money in those days; today it isn't much.

Dickman: Like three million dollars today.

Trescony: Just about - and I started from there. In addition, I made provisions to take care of my father, mother and sister in San Francisco.

Dickman: Who put the mortgage on? your father?

Trescony: As I mentioned before, the Tularcitos Ranch was left to Leo Chrystal my cousin, and the Chupinos to Anita Purdi, another cousin. Since they were minors, my father and uncle were appointed trustees of the estate. Anita felt the estate was not managed properly and, therefore, she sued for improper accounting. This went through the courts for several years, and it cost my father between fifty and seventy-five thousand dollars. This coupled with the cost of schooling, dry years, etc. accounted for this heavy mortgage. In order to raise funds, they were forced to mortgage the property. The family feud ended up friendly but it was too late to recuperate the costs.

Dickman: Now, the depression hit. What were the effects on you and your family and on the ranch?

Trescony: I hope this young generation doesn't experience one. Because no one knows what a depression is unless he goes through it. Rube, you remember it?

Albaugh: Yes, everyone was broke.

Trescony: During the depression we had no social security, nor Medicare--food stamps, etc. You had what you had and if you didn't, you were out. You could hire a man but couldn't pay him. Things were tough.

Trescony: I'm not trying to make it any worse than it was. Maybe these young people growing up need something like that to wake them up; maybe things are coming too easy to them. I know you have to struggle to enjoy something; you can't enjoy everything on a silver platter. You have to work for it and then you can appreciate it. The sad part about it is we learn these things too late in life and then we're too old to enjoy it--in some cases.

There were dry years; things were different, especially in those horse and buggy days. Everything we did in those days we did the hard way.

There's one thing we did in the horse and buggy days that we haven't got today and I doubt it will ever come back--and that's visiting with people you know and like. You can blame the television, radio and other distractions. In the old days you rode or drove a horse to a destination and that animal had to be fed, watered and rested, and what did you do? You visited!

No one calls up anymore - "Are you going to be home?" You meet them at a funeral, rodeo, fair, weddings, reunions, or in cocktail rooms. Herb Cain says, "It's standing up drinking cocktails that gets you down." Which is true.

I feel as though I'm living in an entirely new world than the one I started in. People think and act differently. I'm not saying we should go back, but, my gosh, we've lost so much. It's nice to sit down and just visit. What's nicer than that? Too many people are so preoccupied trying to make a dollar that they don't have time to be concerned with their fellow man.

Dickman: Now the depression hit, you owed \$317,000 - what happened?

Trescony: I used all my intelligence to impress upon the powers that be (Bank of Italy) that all I needed was time. I kept reminding them, "In time this will all be paid off. If you give a rancher time he'll have good crops, good prices and in five years or so he'll pay you everything he owes you with interest compounded." And I proved it!

But they didn't have anyone in the bank with enough foresight and agricultural experience to understand this. The Bank of Italy grew up as a mushroom overnight and they behaved like one. They kept asking for the money, and I told them, "How am I going to pay you that money if you don't give me the tools to work with?" They wouldn't give me money to buy livestock.

Then Mario Giannini, son of A. P. Giannini, came to the ranch with the head man of the Bank of Italy (later known as the Bank of America). I told my son Mario, "Mario, I want you to shake hands

Trescony: with Mr. Mario Giannini." He picked Mario up, hugged him and said, "So your name is Mario, too?" He said to me, "How are you getting along?"

"I'm starving."

Dickman: Julius, we like to talk to you about your diversified ranch operation.

"What do you mean? You're not getting enough to eat?"

Trescony: No. "I don't mean that, Mr. Giannini, but they don't give me the tools to work with. How am I going to pay this loan off if you don't give me some stock and machinery so I can farm properly?" And I went on and surely spoke my piece.

He replied, "Come up to San Francisco to see me." Just like that. In a few days I took a train to San Francisco where I met my friend George Arms who was in the ship building business and was borrowing money at two and three percent. George took me to see Louis Ferrari who was the head man of the Bank of America and told him, "I want you to back this man Trescony, and if you don't I will." Here again my guardian angel appeared on the scene. The bank gave me money to buy the tools.

Another man that helped during this paying-off-mortgage era was Dr. L. B. Bacigalupi. He gave me \$4500 to help pay off my brother. I said, "I'll pay you back."

"Never, I don't want you to pay me back," he replied.

He loved us; loved Marie, and said if he wasn't married he'd live the rest of his days with her. He made a lot of money. He and Giannini were the first ten men to put up \$10,000 to fund the Bank of Italy. He was a wonderful surgeon and quit his practice after making a lot of money. He told me, "People are like pigs, they don't know when to stop. I'm going to quit; I have all the money I want." He traveled to Europe and everywhere.

While visiting Europe during the heyday of the Bank of Italy in 1929, Dr. Bacigalupi cabled his broker and told him to sell all his bank stocks. This is a good example of the doctor's foresight.

His wife is still alive, although she had a stroke last December and is in a rest home north of San Francisco. I talk to her on the phone quite often; in fact, I told her, "When I strike oil on this ranch, I'm going to pay back that \$4500."

I don't have a lot of money but I have a million friends that have all been good to me, honest to goodness friends, who helped me out when I needed it, both financially and morally.

Trescony: Cattle and Barley Lift the Mortgage

Dickman: Julius, we'd like to talk to you about your diversified ranch operations. Did your grandfather grow Mariout barley seed?

Trescony: No, I did. You talk about diversification, I'm going to give the man credit who deserves it, and he's right here--Rube Albaugh. He helped a great deal in initiating many, many programs. As I've said many times before, at one time I thought this ranch was an experiment station for the University of California. I mean that sincerely. Rube initiated so many programs, and we worked together. I believed in him and we operated along that line.

You asked about Mariout barley. Tom Mayhew, our first farm advisor, initiated this program. He called at the ranch one day, but I was not home so he talked to my sister. He told her he'd like to meet me and maybe he had suggestions that would help my farming operations. When she told me this, I said, "Who in the devil is this guy who's coming down here to tell me what to do?" I immediately took a dislike to this man, but when I met Tom, my opinion changed. He became one of my closest, staunchest friends.

Trescony: One day Tom said to me, "Julius, there is a new variety of barley at the UC experiment station in Davis; it's called Mariout. It's a heavy producer and you might like to grow it."

Trescony: I replied, "Tom, if you think this barley will produce well here, I can arrange to have a good, clean piece of summer fallow land on which to grow it."

"All right, I'll see that you get the entire supply. It won't be cheap, but it will pay off in the long run."

This barley cost me a little more than \$8 a sack. It came and I paid for it. My feather's were a little bit ruffled as I thought, "Gee whiz, they got a sucker." Because at \$8--barley was selling for 85¢ to \$1 per hundredweight--and here I was paying \$8 per hundred weight.

I didn't say anything; I reserved it for the next time I saw Tom; after all, it was his idea. So I kept quiet. I was ashamed to tell anyone I had paid that much for barley seed!

Spring came along--a perfect spring--the barley came up, a perfect stand. It was wonderful! It filled; no frost - what a tremendous crop - the biggest my father or I had ever seen. When we'd both drive out to look at it every day, we'd say, "Isn't it wonderful?"

Trescony: I got a hold of Tom and told him about it. Then I started wagging on both sides of my mouth, telling everybody in the world that I had the guts to go and pay this expensive price for the barley and for them to come and see it. We gave it a lot of publicity; Tom got farm advisors to come from different counties to observe it.

Dickman: I sold barley at ten to eleven cents a pound. I kept track of this 73 acres of summer fallow barley; this was my first experience growing a specified strain. We did not have the combine harvester so well equipped as they are now. The barley was so thick they had to take half a swath; the separator could not handle a full swath. It was an excellent crop; they even had to leave some on the ground.

I averaged over \$300 an acre after expenses on that 73 acres. Then I sat back and said to myself, "This is easy; I'll be a millionaire in a few years." I got busy and wrote to the Arizona experiment station; I kept track of all the agronomy departments. I thought, "I'll try another strain of barley; it'll happen again." Well, it never did happen again; it only happened once.

Dickman: What was your average production per acre of other barley?

Trescony: It varied, depending on the season (rainfall); averaged about 20 sacks of barley per acre.

Dickman: What was the highest price per hundredweight that you received?

Trescony: The most money I got raising ordinary barley, not barley seed, was \$3.18 per hundredweight. I remember that season, after harvesting I went into town to the Southern Pacific Milling Company, and the agent told me, "Julius, we have a pretty good price on barley in the sack, \$3.18 a hundred." I thought a while. "Think it over," he continued.

"No, I won't think it over; I'll accept it now." I came home and told one of my tenants what I had done and he said, "Oh, you're foolish; you young fellows get scared, excited. Hell, it's going to go up to \$5.00."

"I know, but we can't afford to gamble with the big price," I stated. "You can sell your barley along with mine if you want to." But he didn't.

I went back to the milling company that afternoon, met the same agent and he said, "I called the main office and told them you accepted the price of \$3.18 per hundredweight, and they said if you hadn't accepted to cancel it." That day the price of barley started to go down. Our tenant, Joe Ratta, sold his barley the

Trescony: next spring for 95¢ per hundredweight plus the warehouse charges. So, again, I said the guardian angel was on my side.

From Brush to Barley

Dickman: What about your brush clearing project, Julius?

Trescony: I had several thousand acres of rangeland that was covered with brush and other shrubs and if cleared would be ideal land for growing certified barley seed--I was still thinking of another bonanza barley crop!

Eventually I cleared 1200 acres of this rangeland. Rube helped me on this and I think it was the first brush clearing program in the county. I had a big roller that weighed several tons which I attached to the front of a tractor. With this equipment I rolled down brush such as chamise, pin oaks and other shrubs. After rolled, it was allowed to dry, then burned.

The land was prepared for growing barley by using an offset disk plow. This plow destroyed the roots of the brush which is important because some of the varieties such as Chamise and pin oaks are sprouting species and the fire does not kill them. Mother Nature does not give up that easily--you have to work hard to improve her.

Another great help in clearing this land was the Triple A (ASC now) payment which amounted to \$10 per acre. It was not a lot of money but took the sting out of this project.

This land clearing project put me in a position to grow certified seed barley which I did for many years. To qualify for this certified seed the crop has to be inspected for purity and tested for germination.

I grew many different varieties of barley, but Atlas, 54 a smooth awn variety, was my best producer and money maker. It was a brewing barley. So I quit raising quantity and started producing quality.

A man by the name of Jim Cousins of Paso Robles contacted me. He represented an English firm producing English draft beer, and I sold my barley to him annually for about ten years. The Trescony barley became very prominent in Liverpool, England, and I received a premium.

One of the features of the contract with Mr. Cousins was that in addition to the money received for the barley, I was to



From brush to barley - representing results of Julius' range improvement program.

Trescony: get a new pair of boots each year as a bonus. These boots were worth \$65-70, and I am now wearing the last pair that I obtained under this program.

Albaugh: You want to remember that Julius was raising that fine malting barley on land that had been previously cleared of chemise brush. I wrote a story about this one time and I entitled it, "From brush to barley." Do you remember that, Julius?

Trescony: I surely do. At the end of this barley growing program I quit farming this land and it is now back to grass where cattle are harvesting it--the lazy way!

Dickman: Julius, after you burned and cleared this brush land, did any springs appear that you did not know existed?

Trescony: No. But we did help the water situation because I burned other land that I couldn't farm--side hills and such. Every canyon on the ranch had fine running springs; they produced water during all the dry years. At one spring there were some big oak trees growing near it, and when I chopped them down the water increased by two or three feet.

Julius on the
and con
In my opinion all range ranches should have a brush control program which would prevent serious wild fires such as last year's Marble Cone fire in the Big Sur area. Some people say it was God's will that started that fire. I say it was God's will to teach us a lesson. If you have a forest, you must take care of it, especially the trees, because only God can make a tree, but I have no use for underbrush. It has been demonstrated many times that where brush is cleared the water supply is increased.

There is a movement underway (a bond issue) to divert by a tunnel the Nacimientto River into the San Antonio, this tunnel will be six or seven miles long. The water will be diverted by gravity. When this project is completed, in addition to furnishing irrigation water, it will produce electricity all of which will help pay for itself. It's smart, simple; costs money, yes, but it will pay its way.

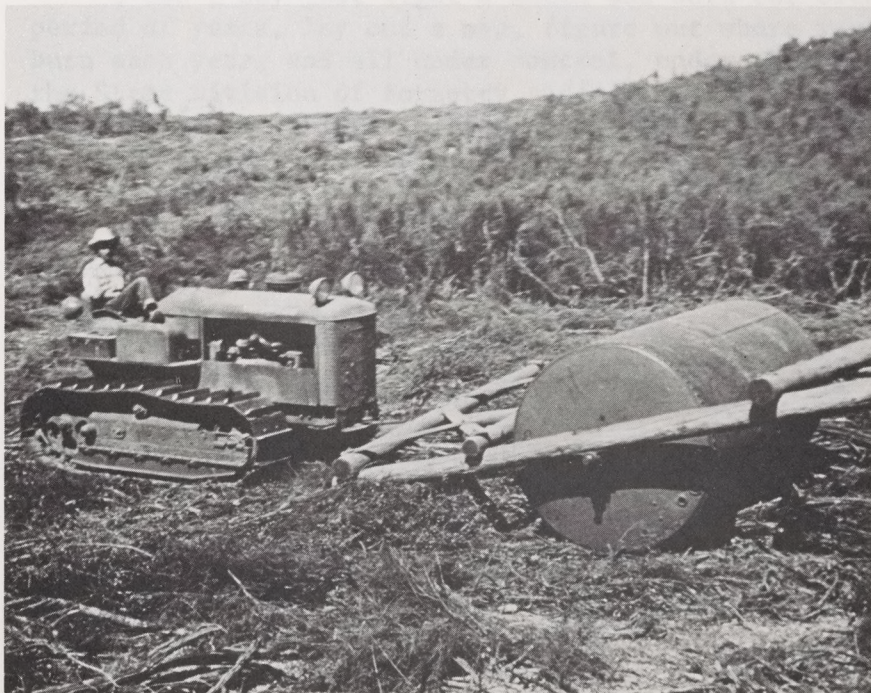
I don't think that bond issue will have any trouble going through, do you think so, Marion?

Stanley: No, I sure hope it will pass.

Trescony: Oh, I think it will pass; I think it's great. This year proves it. The water was so high the rainfall was so heavy that they had to unload it. For a couple of days though they held it back because they were afraid it would flood clear down to Spreckels. The



Julius on the firing line. He pioneered range improvement by rolling and controlled burning of brush.



A brush, roller developed by Julius - used extensively for range improvement on the Rancho San Lucas.

Trescony: spectacular part of this program is that the tunnel and dams are being built by the land owners--not the county, state or federal government.

Dickman: Did you have to get permission to do a control burn on your own land?

Trescony: Yes, from the State Department of Forestry; we got excellent cooperation from this agency.

Dickman: Have you ever seen one escape?

Trescony: Yes - I think Rube can tell you about one that escaped in the Carmel Valley.

Dickman: How did that happen?

Trescony: I don't know. Once in a while they'll get away with the best intent. You might say the wind changes--fire will change the wind current; valleys, canyons, going uphill, humidity; but not too often--it's pretty well guarded.

They can burn areas; Harold Eade on the Laguna Ranch almost every year burns sections out of his brushy country; deer can't forage in there; it's just too thick. That's what they should do and they should do more of it. They had a bad fire in the Arroyo Seco and the highest waters that ever ran there were this year. It can happen anyplace, but it should be done under proper supervision.

I don't say just light a match and burn the brush. Over a period of years, lay out a map, figure out where you're going to burn each year, and all under control, under the supervision of the State Division of Forestry and/or US Forest Service. These rangers running around in green cars and uniforms can benefit more the condition of our ranges.

Dickman: Back in the 1950's every county had a range improvement association, as I have read. Were you a member?

Trescony: Surely, and we accomplished a great deal.

Albaugh: I don't remember having a range improvement association here, did we?

Stanley: There was one in Monterey County, but I'm not exactly sure what year it was started.

Trescony: Yes we did; we had plots out here with the help of Farm Advisors Tom Meek and Dan Irving.

Albaugh: We established many range variety plots, Julius, but there was not an organization established at that time.

Trescony: Well, the Extension Service had plots all over my ranch as well as throughout the county.

Stanley: We had a range improvement association for control burning, too. Your son Julian was president of that group. It finally folded.

Albaugh: That started after I left Monterey County.

Dickman: What other projects were you involved in with the Extension Service?

Trescony: I was kept well informed regarding research work on livestock and agronomy through our farm advisors and specialists stationed at UC Davis.

Dickman: Can you be more specific?

Albaugh: Tell him about your cattle feeding tests, Julius, and your crossbreeding program.

Crossbreeding - We Harness Hybrid Vigor

Trescony: I believe I was one of the first to start crossbreeding; the first to breed yearling heifers.

Dickman: Will you give us details about them? What did you think about crossbreeding? Did you think it would work? Did you think it was crazy?

Trescony: I don't say it was crazy. I went on the idea of what it does to a human, and in some cases I thought it helped. The crossing of different breeds, even in humans, has its advantages. With cattle, we weren't too sure, but we felt it was a good program to investigate and tried it on that basis. And it worked out. The crossbred calves were born with more resistance to disease, stronger and heavier.

Albaugh: The first use of Brahman bulls on yearling Hereford heifers was done on this ranch. We found out that one of the bulls did sire small calves at birth. Those crossbred Brahman calves, at that time, were sold as veal and I believe Julius received one to one and a half cents per pound more premium on those calves.

Trescony: Rube started me out on this crossbreeding venture. We bred Angus bulls that were loaned to us from UC on Hereford cows. I then bred this first-calf heifer to Shorthorn bulls. In this way I had a three-way cross. Later I used some Santa Gertrudis and Charolais bulls on these big crossbred cows.

Trescony: This terminal cross calf at weaning time was at least one hundred pounds heavier than the straight Herefords. Then the drought came and I had to dispose of this fine herd of cattle. My herd was often used as a demonstration; people came from several counties to view this project. I am sure my results helped to encourage crossbreeding.

During the years I was building up my herd I bought two sets of straight Hereford heifers from Rube's brother Albert Albaugh.

Dickman: What do you feel is the outlook of the cattle business?

Trescony: I hate to say this, but I don't see much future for the cattle business. There's too many people against us. I don't think we are paid in proportion to what we have to do to produce our product. In other words, we don't get enough of the housewife's dollar--too many middle men. People are complaining about high prices; I don't care what item you pick up at the store, it costs more and more. When you come to something as palatable, nutritious and good-tasting as meat, they complain.

Dickman: How would you describe the characteristics of a good beef cow?

Trescony: I'm not going to put myself as an expert, but the first thing a cow should be is a good mother--produce an ample amount of milk. As far as size is concerned, that all depends on breed and on what type of forage is available. I imagine people in the northern country or in Nevada can raise a different animal and do a better job than we can down in this country; or vice versa. This country is pretty well open; the winters are not as severe as they are in Nevada where they have freezing temperatures. Therefore, you need to produce animals that are suitable for the environment.

So it's hard to say what type is best. The cow can't do it alone; the bull has to do his part. Then it depends on the type of bull you have. It's too big a question; ask Rube Albaugh who has made a life study of this, he can give you the answer, I can't. Rube?

Albaugh: I think Julius has partly answered the question when he said the cow must give ample milk. In the first place, she should breed regularly every year and raise a calf. The animal she raises should be heavy at weaning and heavy when it goes into a feedlot to be finished. It should gain rapidly--those are all genetic traits that are highly heritable. Environment, as Julius mentioned, has a lot to do with the production of the ideal animal. All animals are the result of their inheritance and their environment.

Supplementary Feeding From Mounds

Transcript: A good many years ago, under John's supervision, we carried on a large supplementary feeding experiment. We don't you tell.



A group of two-year-old Hereford heifers on Rancho San Lucas.
This was an experimental herd demonstrating the results of the practice
of breeding yearling heifers.

Supplementary Feeding Pays Dividends

Trescony: A good many years ago, under Rube's supervision, we carried on a range supplementary feeding experiment. Why don't you tell them about it, Rube?

Albaugh: Research work conducted at UC Davis under the supervision of Dr. George Hart and H. R. Guilbert found that when range grasses dry they become deficient in protein and phosphorus. Applying this research work in the field we set up a test on Julius' ranch where one-half of the cattle were supplemented on dry range and the other half nonsupplemented. It turned out to be an excellent demonstration.

The supplemented cattle made several dollars a head more when sold than the nonsupplemented ones, even after paying for the cost of feed and labor. This was a far-reaching program. We not only had meetings on Julius' ranch to show these results but also they were publicized far and wide. Today this is a common practice.

Disease Control

Albaugh: Julius was also a cooperator on our brucellosis control program. Under this project calves 4-8 months were vaccinated with Strain 19 vaccine. This was a big program; we had 4,000 dairy and 4,000 beef cattle enrolled. At the end of six years, by vaccinating these heifer calves between these ages, the incidence of the disease dropped from twenty percent to five percent in dairy cattle and from eight to one percent in beef cattle.

Trescony: Yes, this was a good program and we were one of the first counties in the state to get brucellosis-free certification.

Dickman: Did you have any other diseases? *the Spanish AT branding iron, the oldest is still in use in California.*

Trescony: Yes, we didn't escape foothill abortion. This was a tough disease to handle. The scientists did not know much about it. We lost a lot of calves through abortion; no vaccine was perfected to control it. It is still with us, but they have found the pajaro huelo tick is responsible for the spread of this disease.

Dickman: What about your feeding innovations?

Trescony: One year during the drought period we creep-fed our calves. In order to carry out this practice a self-feeder was enclosed with a certain fence that allowed only the calves to reach the feeder.

Ranch Description

Dickens: I don't think I asked you to characterize your 8,000 acres--how much of it is dry; how much irrigated; the vineyard, etc.

Trescow: Of the total of 8,000 acres in my grandfather's estate, my dad inherited 4,000; the two sisters received the other portion. We are riparian rights in the Salinas River which later was utilized for a flow of water to grow the underground



Julius' branding iron stove. He holds the Spanish AT branding iron, the oldest in continuous use in California.

Trescow: We have about 7,000 acres leased on a 15-year contract with Spreckels Sugar Company. They came in eleven years ago and spent three quarters of a million dollars developing the land, getting the water from the Salinas River. Then it's leased out to a man who pays you a rent and at a fixed time that rent will amortize the initial money he took to develop the property by Spreckels.

Dickens: Is that the dry land?

Trescow: That's the water land, the irrigation land.

Dickens: What about the vineyard?

Ranch Description

Dickman: I don't think I asked you to characterize your 8,800 acres--how much of it is dry; how much irrigated; the rangeland, etc.

Trescony: Of the original 8,800 acres in my grandfather's estate, my dad inherited 5,000; his two sisters received the other portion. We own riparian rights to the Salinas River which later was utilized. This body of water is called the Underground River and is probably the largest body of water that flows underground in the United States.

Today we have five wells near this river which are used to sprinkle 1,940 acres. The rest of the land, approximately 4,000 acres, is used for grazing.

Dickman: You said at one time you were working over 10,000 acres. You were leasing some?

Trescony: Yes, 11,000 acres when I had the whole ranch. In addition to the land my father inherited, he bought that much land from the homesteaders, people that took 160 acres; he bought them out over the years.

Dickman: What has happened to that land?

Trescony: We still have it. Some of it was sold during the depression when I had to make a payment to the bank. I had to sell about half of the property to hold the other half; kept the best half which I now own and we call the home ranch.

We Irrigate the Trescony Grant

Dickman: What is the present situation? Are you leasing?

Trescony: We have over 1,800 acres leased on a 15-year contract with Spreckels Sugar Company. They came in eleven years ago and spent three quarters of a million dollars developing the land, getting the water from the Salinas River. Then it's leased out to a man who pays yearly rent and in fifteen years that rent will amortize the initial amount it took to develop the property by Spreckels.

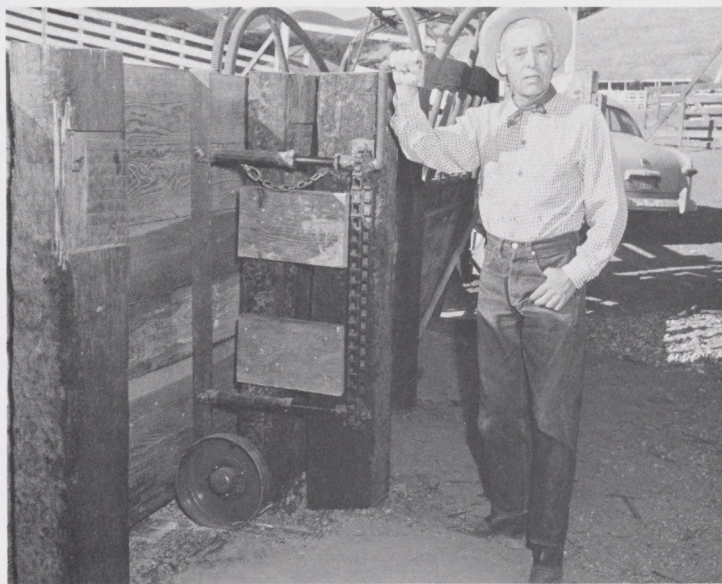
Dickman: Is that the farm land?

Trescony: That's the mesa land, the irrigation land.

Dickman: What about the rangeland?



Julius with his homemade adjustable squeeze chute for all sizes of cattle. Above photo shows method of securing width of chute; below illustrates how the chute is adjusted for size of cattle. Blueprints and specifications for this piece of equipment are available from the University of California.



Trescony: Five years ago we had a short year and we sold our herd of cattle which we hated to do. As I mentioned earlier, we had been breeding up the herd through crossbreeding for many years; nevertheless, we sold out and got a good price. Since then, we have been pasturing cattle (so much a head per month). We haven't gone back to the ownership of cattle.

Dickman: Are you leasing any land to anyone who grows tomatoes?

Trescony: No, but the man who farms for Spreckels plants four to five hundred acres of tomatoes each year.

Dickman: What's his name?

Trescony: Jack Hays. He's been president of the Tomato Growers Association in California for six or seven years. He's now retired from the office and is a consultant; works on the price contracts.

The Inventor Talks

Dickman: Julius, you've been quite inventive--there's a float valve, a branding chute, gate fastener and some other items. Tell us about your inventions.

Trescony: I haven't invented anything of any consequences. I've gone on the premise that necessity is the mother of invention and I've always felt, if you need anything, want it badly and can't get it, figure out some way to make it.

As far as big business is concerned, their engineers go into a room with some problem that presents itself and they use their brains, experience, and the drawing board to build a product to meet the demand.

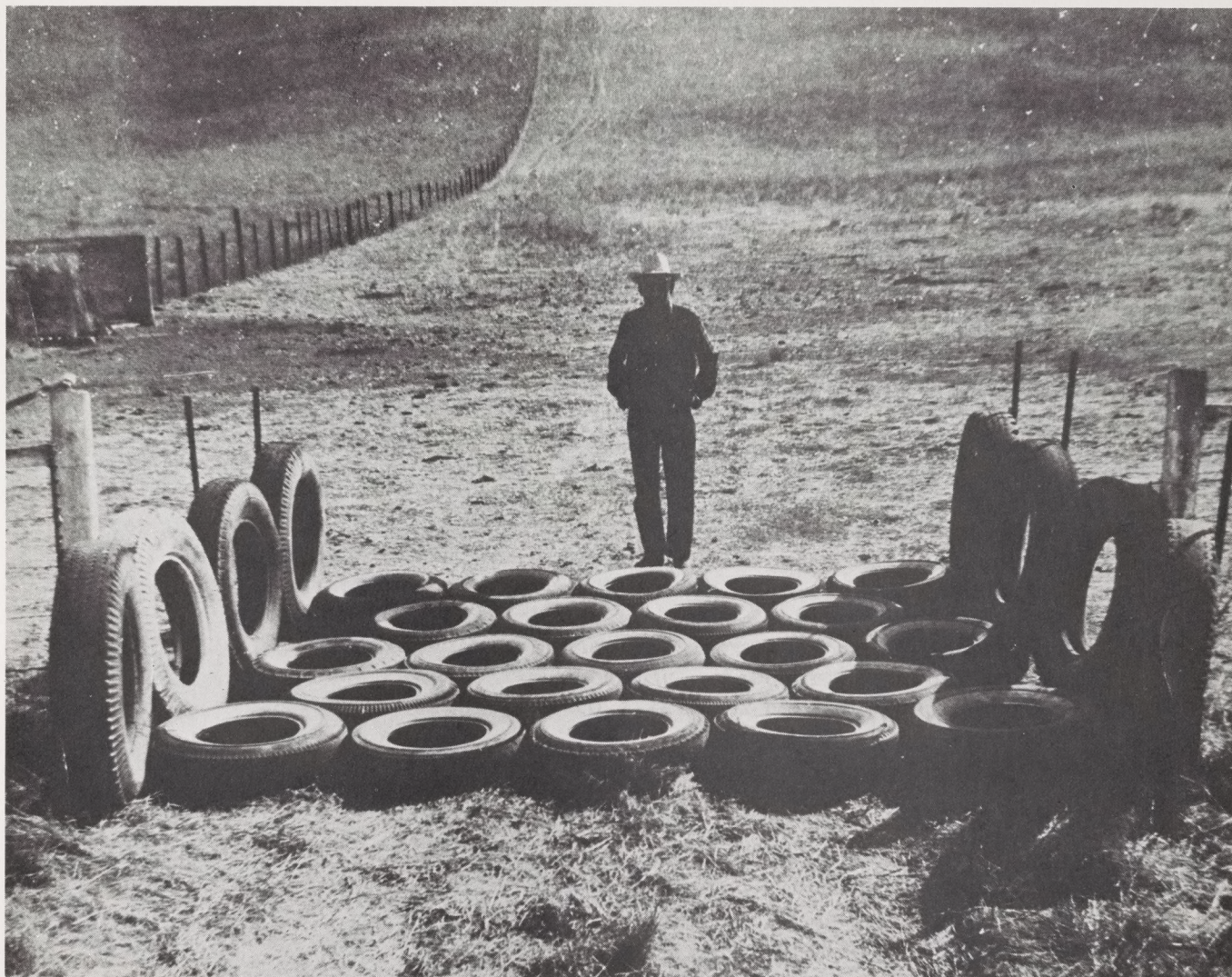
I use things that people throw away--metal covers, for instance. The stores that deal in washing machines have covers that are already polished and you can use them as a lid for the float valve on your watering trough. They're easy to make, save money and they last forever.

Dickman: How did you get your idea for a cattle chute?

Trescony: At first I thought it couldn't be done. I lay awake nights thinking, "There must be an easier way to handle all sizes of cattle in one chute." A chute that is big enough for a large bull and not too large for yearlings. So I got the idea one morning, why not make one side solid and the other flexible or movable. Then I wondered about the kind of material to use. I went back to the old system that I spoke about--using odds and ends that I had saved.



An inexpensive homemade float valve carrying ample supply of fresh water for range cattle.



An effective cattle guard - another of Julius' unique inventions.



A salt trough that cattle cannot tip over.

Trescony: I used a crank, a harvester chain, a couple of sprockets and fastened them to one side of the chute. It worked.

This chute became so popular that blueprints and specifications were developed by engineers at UC Davis. These were published in a bulletin entitled, "Beef handling and feeding equipment," and it received wide distribution.

Albaugh: You also developed a cattle guard made of rubber tires, Julius. I got a letter the other day from a professor in Virginia, wanting to know the history of cattle guards, also if I knew of any unusual guards. I had a picture of your rubber tire cattle guard and sent it to him. I told him you invented it.

Trescony: In addition to the rubber tire guards, I also made some using wooden cross arms taken from telephone poles. These cross arms held the insulators on the poles. In order to keep the cattle from walking over these guards, I inserted a piece of plastic pipe in the holes of the cross arms and painted them red. This kept the cattle from crossing. Another technique to prevent them from crossing is to stretch a cow or sheep hide over the guard.

Albaugh: A bear hide will do the same thing.

Trescony: Funny thing though, horses won't step on you if they can help it. You know that? They will kick you, but won't step on you.

Albaugh: You used oil drums and made a salt trough and branding iron stove. Tell them about it.

Trescony: I don't think they're of much consequence.

Albaugh: Yes they are.

Trescony: Today we brand with electricity--a branding iron, a dehorner. But prior to this we used a stove and wood, so we just took an oil drum and fixed it so you could build a fire in it.

The salt trough was made by cutting an oil drum in two, then welding on each end an iron that stuck out about two feet which prevented cattle from upsetting it.

Over the years I remodeled many of my pickups. That is, I utilized space for tools and other ranch equipment not available when I bought the vehicle. I had a harness maker sew some pockets in a cow hide; this hide was sewn to the back seat and used to hold my tools.

We built things from necessity, but I don't think this pickup tool holder was so wonderful.

Albaugh: You don't think it was unusual, but everyone else did.

Community Activities - I Help My Fellow Man

Dickman: Julius, I'd like to talk to you about the organizations you belong to and some of the charities you support. You have been a school trustee?

Trescony: After my father resigned from being a trustee, I took over. I was a trustee here at our local school, named Alberto after my grandfather. When the Alberto School was abandoned and the schools were unified, I became a trustee in San Lucas for many years.

We were given a federal grant of \$40,000 to build a new school. This sum was matched by the landowners and taxpayers. Some of the local taxpayers criticized us for building such a large school. We needed an auditorium, a place to hold Farm Bureau and other special meetings. Years later we were complimented for having the foresight to build a school with all these excellent facilities.

We Scramble at the Salinas Valley Fair

Dickman: You were a director of the Salinas Valley Fair for many years?

Trescony: Yes, I was a director for twenty-five years, and I had charge of the calf, lamb and pig scrambles as well as the Junior auction sale.

Dickman: What were the scrambles?

Trescony: In the calf scramble we used ten calves for twenty boys. Each boy had a halter, and in order to win, he was suppose to halter the calf and lead it out the gate. Those that did not get a calf were given consolation prizes.

The lamb scramble was organized for the girls. We used ten lambs for twenty girls. Each lamb had a bell with a number; each girl was given a number and she had to match it with the number in the bell. Booby prizes were awarded to those that failed to catch a lamb. The fair board had said many times that ours was the only fair that had a lamb scramble for girls.

The pig scramble was for the boys and was conducted similar to the lamb scrambles except the pigs were greased which made it more interesting.

These scrambles were very entertaining as well as helpful to

Trescony: the 4-H and Future Farmer programs. The winners in these scrambles had to show their animals at the fair the following year--this was one of the requirements for entering these events, and it worked out very well for many years.

Dickman: Who donated the livestock used in these scrambles?

Trescony: We had to raise money to purchase them. I never had any trouble doing this, as people were very generous. I've said many times, privately and publicly, that I'll put the people of Monterey County against the world for generosity, and I mean it, too!

Dickman: Are these events still held?

Trescony: No. After I resigned as director, they were discontinued--too much trouble.

Albaugh: Those calves, lambs and pigs, Dick, were the boys and girls' projects for the following year. So they had to feed them, take care of them and show them--a fine program.

Dickman: Tell us about the auction sales.

Trescony: In addition to all the activities at the fair each year, we had a Junior Livestock Auction for the benefit of 4-H'ers and Future Farmers. This necessitated getting generous people to come that particular day and bid on these animals. It's surprising to say, again, that you wonder where the money is going to come from, but each year we were surprised at and gratified by the generosity of the community to enable these children to get over market prices for their animals. They can't buy wholesale. The child has one animal; he has to buy the feed at retail prices which costs more money, and he gives up a lot of time after school, and he should be recompensed.

As a result, the Salinas Valley Fair in King City holds a record of paying the highest price for animals sold at auction. The fair doesn't deserve that credit; it's the generosity of the people who realize that the 4-H and Future Farmer programs give children something worthwhile and educational.

Albaugh: One way you got people to bid on these animals was to contact them personally beforehand.

Trescony: Yes, I'd get on the telephone, write letters, contacting the families of the participants as well as other buyers - and I was seldom turned down.

Dickman: Because of your large indebtedness and experience in getting credit, Julius, were you ever active in any organization that set up a farm credit for ranchers?

Dickman: What problems does the cattlemen's association of the county have?

Trescony: No, not directly. We all know that in the ranch business, it's up one year and down the next. We're in the biggest gambling game in the world. You can plant a seed, but you don't know if it's going to sprout; you don't know if it's going to grow, and if it grows, you don't know if it's going to mature; if it matures, you don't know what price you will receive for it. Then we have other elements to contend with--climate, environment, taxes, decision on type of operation whether to run cattle or sheep; irrigate or dry farm. It's a way of life. You either like it or you don't.

Albaugh: I heard you say once, Julius, that you were at the first meeting

Dickman: Today if a rancher needs credit, what is available to him outside of the banks?

Trescony: There's the Federal Land Bank which was organized purposely for agriculture. They handle loans in many areas throughout the United States. We also have the Production Credit Association. Both of these finance establishments have been very beneficial. Then there's the Savings and Loan; they usually do business on home property.

Trescony: Yes, Bob Russell.

Dickman: One thing that helped us during the depression was the passing of the Fraser Lemke Law which held off the payment of loans for a couple of years and gave people a chance to have a breathing spell.

Dickman: During the depression in the Midwest some of the farmers used pitchforks and shotguns to keep the creditors from foreclosing.

Albaugh: Was there ever anything like that here?

Trescony: No, no violence of any kind. I never heard of anything like that. As I mentioned, the Fraser Lemke Law at that time helped quite a few ranchers, such as Bill Casey, Wes Eade and others.

Farm Organizations

Dickman: Julius, you've been a member of the California Cattlemen's Association for quite a few years. You were president of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association, too.

Trescony: Yes, I was president in the early years of the organization. Rube Albaugh was the instigator of organizing the Monterey group. We also had the wool growers in which I was active during the time I was in the sheep business, which the bank forced me into in 1925. Although my ranch is not fitted for sheep raising, the bank owned a lot of sheep in the San Joaquin Valley where they were experiencing a drought. Since we had plenty of green feed in Monterey County, they shipped some of their sheep here. This worked out fairly well for me because I had experience with sheep when my father operated the ranch.

Dickman: What problems does the cattlemen's association of the county have?

Trescony: They're organized, have a board of directors, elected every two years. They meet twice a year. Our State directors, president and secretary attend our meetings; also our assemblyman, senator, congressman. There's quite a bit accomplished.

Dickman: What do you think of the commercialization of the Farm Bureau?
 Trescony: We have educational meetings and members of the University of California Extension Service participate and discuss various subjects such as breeding, feeding, disease control and marketing.

Albaugh: I heard you say once, Julius, that you were at the first meeting of the California Cattlemen's Association when they decided to go into a marketing program. Did you make the motion for the adoption of that program?

Trescony: I seconded the motion. I was then a director; the youngest member at that time.

Albaugh: Do you remember who was president?

Trescony: Yes, Hub Russell.

Dickman: What was this marketing program you entered into?

Trescony: It had its advantages and disadvantages. It was a program that seemed to be needed at the time but then was dropped after awhile. Do you know more about that, Rube?

Albaugh: It was a cooperative marketing deal where they attempted to orderly market cattle. The reason it was developed was because California produces about 50% of the beef it consumes. Cattlemen reasoned if this was true, California producers should get more money for cattle raised in this state. As I recall, the State was divided into five districts; they had a fieldman in each district and when Julius' cattle were ready for sale, he would notify this fieldman who would try to get a buyer for him. This program was underway for about five years and then was discontinued for the simple reason that cattle could be shipped in from other states when prices were favorable in California. Some members were dissatisfied and sold their cattle for whatever they could get; thus, breaking the market.

Dickman: Have you been an active member of the Farm Bureau?

Trescony: Yes, I've belonged to it ever since it started. I've paid my dues, attended meetings, helped to get more members, represented my particular interest--when in the sheep business, I represented the sheep growers; if in the cattle business, represented the cattle industry.

Dickman: Do you recall what year it was started?

Trescony: Nineteen seventeen.

Dickman: Is that when Agricultural Extension came into the county?

Trescony: Yes, and Tom Mayhew was the first farm advisor.

Dickman: What do you think about the commercialization of the Farm Bureau? Some people think it's gotten quite commercialized--selling fertilizer and other products. Are you for that?

Trescony: No, I can't say that I am. It has its advantages and disadvantages. I think a lot would depend on the manager of the Farm Bureau. He's got to be a good organizer.

Dickman: Do you purchase any commodities from them?

Trescony: No, not anything of any consequence. I remember the time that Paul Aurignac was advocating this venture.

Albaugh: The reason I think the Farm Bureau went into this activity, Julius, was to increase membership. If a farmer can save 20 percent on fertilizer by being a member, he'll join. One of the big advantages about the Farm Bureau program is its health insurance. It's still good.

Trescony: I agree.

Dickman: Have you also been a member of the grange?

Trescony: No.

I Meet Randolph Hearst

Dickman: You've been chairman of the Restoration of Mission San Antonio Committee?

Trescony: Yes, when it was being rebuilt - I guess 25 or 30 years ago or more.

Albaugh: Didn't you have Governor Warren attend one of the functions there?

Trescony: Yes, we had many celebrities come there. We gave a barbecue each year and had some entertainment; these celebrities brought in a lot of money. I think our largest donor was William Randolph Hearst. I met the gentleman by arrangement through Harry Taylor who was the foreman on the Milpitas Ranch, some 45,000 acres. Hearst had his castle "summer home" on that ranch.

Dickman: Is the restoration now complete?

Trescony: While I was active in the restoration of Mission San Antonio, Mrs. Taylor asked me to attend a celebration at the castle for William Randolph and his amorada, Marion Davies. The reason I was invited to this affair was because the Taylors wanted me to meet Mr. Hearst personally and tell him about the restoration of the mission.

Dickman: The guests came in chauffeured limousines and the men wore straw hats and red bandana neckerchiefs; it was the first time I saw women wearing pants. Marian Davies was a wonderful hostess, visiting from one table to another; everyone was having a good time. It was quite evident they weren't his kind of people; they were her Hollywood friends.

Trescony: They had a master of ceremonies and a big orchestra playing during the luncheon. Several people performed on stage by singing songs and other entertainment. When they called on William Randolph, I wondered what this man was going to do. Believe it or not, he yodeled! The best I ever heard, too. He was a tremendous big man, standing six feet six inches, and with a high-pitch voice, so I guess yodeling must have been very easy for him.

When he got through yodeling, he went out a side door. Mrs. Taylor took me over to him and introduced us. In talking to him I had to look up as though gazing at the sky, and naturally, he had to look down at me.

Dickman: I told him about our restoration program and hoped he would be able to help us. I knew each year he furnished a couple of beef for the barbecue, but I had hoped that sometime he would be able to make a liberal donation. After I went through my song and dance, I was all spirited up - he made me feel at home. I wasn't ill at ease at all; he called me by name and listened to everything I had to say. Finally he said, "Well, Mr. Trescony, I want you to go in that office right there and see my secretary, Mr. Willecome, and you tell him what you just told me."

Trescony: I thanked him; Marion Davies came hurrying by and they drove away.

Dickman: I told my story to Mr. Willecome. Here's the secret. Randolph Hearst, in his will, left a half million dollars for 21 missions, and he earmarked \$100,000 for the Mission San Antonio. Now, I don't want to accept the credit that my speech convinced William Randolph, but maybe it helped. With that money, we restored the chapel.

Dickman: Is the restoration now complete?

Trescony: Yes, it took about a half million dollars to complete the project--it's beautiful. They have archives, under glass, beautiful specimens of early day Indian artifacts. It's a showplace; people come from all over to see it.

George Mee Memorial Hospital

Dickman: You've been active in securing money for the George Mee Memorial Hospital.

Trescony: Quite a few of us raised a great deal of money for this project. The hospital was needed in this community. We have an excellent hospital - a good corp of staff doctors and very outstanding nurses. They have 44 beds.

Dickman: How much money did you raise.

Trescony: We were very fortunate; the George Mee Family donated \$150,000 which gave us a good start. We got some federal money and had to match that amount. Total cost was about a half million to start with. I don't think they're making a lot of money, but they're breaking even. Hospitals cost a lot to operate.

The Crosby Golf Tournament has donated money every year--\$10,000 to \$20,000. We continue to organize special events to raise extra money. It's needed, and I think we'll be able to maintain it. Of course, we're always hoping someone will leave us some money in their will.

Saint Anthony's Dining Room

Dickman: What about St. Anthony's dining room?

Trescony: That organization, located in San Francisco, is the only one of its kind in the United States - where they give one meal daily to people, irrespective of color, race or religion. They feed twelve to fifteen hundred daily--Thanksgiving and Christman time they serve all the turkey and cranberry one can eat. It's a really charitable affair; it's not a coffee and donut deal, but a full meal. It is maintained and supported by charitable people all over California. See how generous people can be!

Dickman: What are your duties in this organization?

Trescony: During the various seasons, such as growing tomato, carrots, beans, I get annual donations from the growers of these products. The

Trescony: operator of the Salinas Valley Freight Lines is very generous; he takes care of transporting the products to San Francisco. I pick up the vegetables and fruit and deliver them to him, so there is no cost. He's the real key to the program.

Last year I sent them three tons of tomatoes, about three tons of carrots, two tons of beans, potatoes, garlic, onion--all kinds of produce. Spreckels and Union sugar companies donate sugar. I enjoy this project because it's real charity! Besides, it's a tax deduction.

Dickman: Have you been active at all in politics?

Trescony: The one thing my father told me--and he was a supervisor for four years, "Son, I want you to promise me never to go into politics." And I never did, never cared to, but I'd work to get a man elected.

Dickman: You are a registered voter?

Trescony: Yes.

Dickman: What party?

Trescony: Republican - but I've voted for Democrats--Roosevelt, Truman and Kennedy--and I'll vote for another one if he's good. I vote for the man, although I am registered Republican.

Trescony: It was a perfect hunt - hunting with people who knew how to hunt and were law abiding in every respect.

Top Hunters with Rifle or Scattergun

Albaugh: Julius, let's talk about your hunting experiences. I remember you telling a story about a hunting trip you took with Gene Rambo and the two McMillan brothers. You told about a horse that Don hunted on - tell us about it.

Trescony: As you know, Gene Rambo was an all around cowboy four years in succession. He took part in six rodeo events and during his rodeo career earned over \$300,000. He saved his money and bought ranches. Gene is a fine man; very articulate; and excellent horseman.

Albaugh: The land on one of his ranches was mountainous, high rough and brushy. He planted some chucker partridges on this property. As they increased, he invited me over to hunt together with the McMillan brothers. We started hunting early in the morning--got up at daylight. I had never shot these game birds; they have rare habitats; they'll flush from right under your feet.

Trescony: We shot quite a few; I was high man. In the afternoon we went down below in the back country, in the Chamise, and we hunted valley quail. The McMillans had two fine bird dogs, well trained; we had used them for hunting the chuckers that morning.

We were on horseback; found where the quail were sitting and we formed a line like an army advancing on the enemy. We tied all the horses to a tree except Don's; his horse followed him while we were hunting.

We'd go a little ways, the quail would come up; we'd all shoot; we'd stop; turn the dogs loose and they'd pick up the cripples; we'd put them in our bags and we'd go again. We did this for almost a half mile, following these quail all along.

Don's horse stayed right behind him; we'd stop; he'd stop. After we had hunted for a while, Gene Rambo said, "Let's count them." Which we did and almost all of us got a limit. Then he stated, "Now we have to stop." There were five of us and we were entitled to ten birds and we had fifty, so we called it a day. Then Don got on his horse, rode back and got the other horses so we wouldn't have to walk. That I had never seen--dogs and horses working, hunting, everything in unison. We lost very few birds because these dogs worked perfectly... and we were good shots!

Albaugh: Probably one of the most enjoyable hunts you ever had?

Trescony: It was a perfect hunt - hunting with people who knew how to hunt and were law abiding in every respect.

We came back to camp with the chuckers and the quail - and got busy plucking them. Don McMillan has written several books on quail; supposed to be an authority on this subject. He could tell the age of a quail by looking at the wing.

It got dark. Gene Rambo had a big skillet and he fricasseed those quail, fresh as they were, and they were delicious. I said to him, "In addition to being such a wonderful hunting partner and having won so many prizes, it isn't fair that any one man should be blessed with so many attributes such as you have." You can ride a bucking horse, you can rope; you can perform in the kitchen and in this great outdoors you can cook a meal that very few chefs can achieve. You're a pretty lucky man, Gene."

Albaugh: He has what you call "God-given" talents!

Trescony: Yes he has - he's strong, good natured, well mannered; he deserves all the records he's made and broken.

Dickman: Were you a pretty good shot?

Albaugh: Julius, a few years ago a large number of band-tail pigeons invaded this area. Do you remember that?

Trescony: I most certainly do. This unusual migratory flight of pigeons occurred in February after the hunting season had closed. They came in by the thousands to feed on our barley fields. In order to protect my crops I got in touch with the Fish and Game people and one of the game wardens came to view the situation. We took pictures of the birds in order to record this unusual migration for posterity. Because they were destroying my crop, the Fish and Game Commission allowed us to hunt them. This we did for about two weeks and then they left and went into the Peach Tree country.

Albaugh: What did you do with the birds you killed?

Trescony: We ate them, saved them, froze them, gave them away. It was a rare situation and will probably never happen again!

Albaugh: Julius, I know you have a great admiration for the valley quail. Could you expound on this?

Trescony: I think the valley quail is the greatest game bird that flies. You really have to kill them to get them. We have always had a large covey of quail around the ranch headquarters. They have been maintained by improving the environment, such as furnishing feed and habitat.

One of the real attractions of the Rancho San Lucas is this covey of quail. They are admired by all my friends and visitors. We protect them from predators.

Albaugh: Who was one of the great hunters you hunted with?

Trescony: Dr. L. D. Bacigalupi, the outstanding surgeon I mentioned earlier who loaned me \$4500. He was the best duck hunter I ever knew. I used to go duck hunting with him and George Arms and a man by the name of Empey--they formed and were members of a duck club north of San Francisco. All good friends of mine; they'd come down to the ranch and shoot doves, pigeons and quail. In turn I'd go up to their club and hunt ducks. Dr. Bacigalupi and I used the same blind. This shows you what a good hunter he was. He'd call the ducks in and would tell me never to shoot the leader because he brings them in. We shot automatics. In a band of ducks he would usually get a triple hit. When the first one was hitting the pond, the second was on his way down and the third one would be hit. I saw him do this several times and it's a shame I did not have a camera to preserve this for posterity.

Dickman: Were you a pretty good shot?



Trescony: I wasn't ashamed to shoot with the best. I couldn't compete with a man like Dr. Bacigalupi in shooting ducks. I think I was a good shot at game birds such as pigeons and quail. I don't say I was the best; Rube can tell you, I've hunted with him.

Albaugh: You know what I've said about your performance, Julius. As I stated in my memoirs, the three top gunners with whom I have had the pleasure of hunting are Julius Trescony, Ray Conway of Grass Valley and my uncle, Ed Baker. I saw Julius shoot seven times and get seven pheasants. Remember that, Julius?

Trescony: Yes I do, and they were all wild birds.

Dickman: Who taught you to hunt?

Trescony: My father was not a hunter. As a youngster he had an accident crossing the fence, the gun went off and that kind of cooled him off on this sport. But my uncle, Bob Johnson, was quite a hunter. I associated with people who enjoyed hunting.

Dickman: Was your brother a hunter?

Trescony: Some, not much.

Albaugh: What about Dr. Jim Browne?

Trescony: Oh, yes, he was raised up in Scott Valley, Siskiyou County, and he studied to be a dentist. Got to be a good one, too; had a large practice in San Francisco. Notwithstanding that, his heart was always on the ranch, horses, hunting. I made several trips with him up to Siskiyou County, to Fish Lake about forty miles west of Scott Valley in the Marble Mountains hunting the big mule deer.

Albaugh: Didn't you tell me Jim's brother was the best outdoorsman you ever hunted with?

Trescony: Both of them were the best. Once we camped out and the horses weren't too gentle; beautiful country; good place to fish and hunt; elevation 4,500 feet. Coming out along the trail we encountered a migratory flight of turkey buzzards. They were from Canada going to Mexico (I found that out later from the Fish and Game people).

At this elevation, these birds were flying about 100 to 150 feet above us. There were thousands of them. We noticed a lot of them were young; they weren't in full plumage but just able to fly. This flight lasted for about two hours.

My Eyesight Fails but I Keep on Hunting

Albaugh: Julius, I would like you to say something about the pioneer
Albaugh: Julius, when you lost the sight of your right eye, you didn't stop hunting. Tell us how you were able to follow this sport.

Trescony: I enjoy hunting and being with good hunters so much--the conviviality of it all--I figured, "Gee, I can't be licked with the loss of the sight of this eye." So I talked to my oldest son Louis who's doing research at the University of California. "Isn't there some way that I can adjust the sights so I can use my left eye? Suppose I put a rod parallel to the gun barrel?"
"Dad," Louis replied, "we might try that; it might work."
So I tried it and it helped me immensely. In other words, instead of sighting down the barrel, I sighted down this rod that I had paralleling my shotgun barrel. When I'd go out hunting in the hills, strangers would ask what it was. I'd tell them it was radar or anything to get them to laugh. If it was a friend of mine, I'd tell him the truth. I had a lot of fun with that adjusted sight, and it did let me enjoy hunting for many years.

Dickman: When was this Julius?

Trescony: About eighteen years ago. I lost the sight of my right eye with glaucoma. And a year and a half ago I had a blood clot in my left eye; both of my doctors told me in no uncertain terms that I was lucky I wasn't totally blind because the blood clot just went half ways and stopped.

Trescony: They weren't looking for fights, but if anyone misbehaved, you All I have now is a little peripheral vision. I can see out of the corner of my eye. I can't read, can't write, but I can watch the tube if I get up close to it; can't drive, but I can see to walk--thank God for that. But I do greatly miss not being able to sit down and read a paper. But I'm happy - see how my guardian angel takes care of me?

Albaugh: What about the time at the State Wheel in King City during the Stamp I have a housekeeper who has been with me for four years. Eleanor reads everything to me--the newspaper, books, letters, of she writes my checks--I have a hand stamp as I can hardly sign my name anymore. She drives me to Salinas, Monterey, if the boys are busy. See how lucky I am? My guardian angel is working over time. I said, the boys weren't looking for fights, but if they were started, they took care of them. They were heaven in every respect.

Albaugh: As I remember you telling me about it, Harold hit this guy once and he didn't even take a long breath. Any other families? How about the Martinuses?

My Friends - The Salt of the Earth

Albaugh: Julius, I would like you to say something about the pioneer families that settled in this area, since you know and worked with so many of them.

Trescony: We had some very outstanding men in this area. They had to work hard for a living; they didn't have much opportunity to go to school; very little chance of further studies. But they had God-given philosophy and good standing to guide them.

Wes Eade of San Lucas, for instance, was a big cattle operator. He not only raised cattle but he also bought and sold thousands. Wes was well known; everybody respected him; he used good judgement in everything he did. He raised three boys; two are still here and in the cattle business; highly respected, following in their father's footsteps. Very wonderful and well-known family.

Another outstanding man was Henry Lynch. He had a primary school education; he was a very convincing speaker and had a lot of common sense. As the saying goes today, the most uncommon thing today is common sense. Lynch was elected as a State senator and served us well; established several post offices, helped open up the country. He raised three boys and they, in turn, were good cowmen; expert horsemen; top cowboys and champions; rough and tumble fighters. They were rough, tough men in the mountains but always gentlemen in town.

Albaugh: Did you ever see those fellows fight?

Trescony: They weren't looking for fights, but if anyone misbehaved, you didn't need a police officer around because they saw to it that whoever disturbed the frivolity and fun we were having was put in his place. They acted as wardens all the time, keeping law and order. Good men; they enjoyed having fun, but they didn't want any disturbance or violence.

Albaugh: What about the time at the Wagon Wheel in King City during the Stampede, when you fellows were at the bar? You, Don and Harold Lynch - and some cowboy elbowed his way in and shoved Don out of the way? What happened?

Trescony: It didn't take long before he was outside. They dragged him out by his boots. As I said, the Lynches weren't looking for fights, but if they were started, they took care of them. They were he-men in every respect.

Albaugh: As I remember you telling me about it, Harold hit this guy once and he didn't even take a long breath. Any other families? How about the Martinuses?

Trescony: The Martinus family came into this Lockwood country early and they were good, honest people; worked hard. The sons and grandsons are still in the area, well respected. They farm irrigated ground; run cattle.

Albaugh: What about the Bardins of Salinas?

Trescony: A wonderful family. Jim Bardin's father built the first hospital in Salinas and it was named after him, the Jim Bardin Hospital. In fact, I had a tonsil operation in that hospital.

Trescony: Yes I am. I was very surprised in 1969, when I received a letter from Jim Bardin. They owned a lot of land. Jim was one of the first presidents of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association. He's continued to be active in many organizations, still a prominent, well respected man in Salinas as well as throughout the state.

There are more families, too; one of them was here yesterday--the Brays--Roy and Irvin. Their father Bert was a very fine man; nice people; related to the Eades. They're big cattle producers; very active in the industry.

Irvin is a cattle buyer; he must be the best known man in California, Nevada and Arizona. Everyone in the entire West knows him; he's well liked and respected. His tradings are always fair and square. As you recall, Rube, he's the one who ramrodded the litigation in 1974 against the A & P chain stores for price fixing. The cattlemen won this lawsuit in the amount of \$34 million.

Trescony: Roy is a real community worker; was president of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association and director of the state association; also past president of the Salinas Valley Fair.

Albaugh: There's another man you knew well and probably hobknobbed with a lot, and that's Shorty Williamson.

Trescony: Oh, yes, everybody liked Shorty. He had a very merry, happy disposition; made a lot of friends; was a cattle buyer in this country; did very well; bought a ranch; never married; he took part in the rodeos. He was quite a bronc rider and enjoyed it; was a good roper. The best part about Shorty was that everybody liked him. He died very suddenly from a heart attack. Had one of the largest funerals I ever attended.

Albaugh: You knew Butch Norris quite well, too, didn't you?

Trescony: Yes. Butch was a good cattle operator; his wife Lucille rode horseback as much as Butch did. They had no children. She was an expert horsewoman. In the spring of the year when we had rodeos and brandings, Lucille did the castrating. She performed this operation better than any man I knew--she was faster. She was invited to many of the roundups where she did the castrating. She's the only woman I know that performed that surgery.

Trescony: It is impossible to list all of my wonderful, fine friends; I think friends represent the biggest asset anyone can acquire.

My Coveted Awards

Albaugh: Julius, you were elected California Livestock Man of the Year in 1969. Are you now a member of the Selection Committee?

Trescony: Yes I am. I was very surprised in 1969, when I received a telephone call from the Secretary of the California Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco, telling me I was elected for this honor. I told him then, "I think there are other men more deserving." He replied, "No, you were unanimously elected—that should make you feel better."

"If that's the case," I said, "I will accept."

I think it is quite an honor and each year the committee elects a man whom they feel has contributed greatly to the livestock industry. This selection committee meets every year in Sacramento where the history of the nominees is presented, and after considerable discussion the committee makes its final decision.

Dickman: What are some of the requirements to be elected?

Trescony: They must have high qualifications. Many have served as officers of the State Cattlemen's Association; must be very active in civic affairs, and they must be successful in their own business. I think it is a wonderful program sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce. I might add that this year I was named Monterey County Cattleman of the Year. Thus I have been fortunate enough to have been honored by my friends at home as well as on the state level.

I Teamed with Science - University of California Cooperative Extension

Dickman: Julius, I forgot to mention that there's a historian on campus who is writing about the history of the Agricultural Extension Service (Cooperative Extension). Your experience working with farm advisors would help greatly in completing this research project. Could you give me some specific examples of how Extension helped you in your ranching operations?

Trescony: It so happened that Rube Albaugh was representing Extension Service in Monterey for over twenty-two years. We became very good friends. He initiated many, many programs. I was very interested in all of these new ideas; we weren't sure about the outcome of some of them, so we would run tests and experiments. It was the thing to do--progress.

The University of California at Davis had men who dedicated their lives to research in agriculture for the benefit of everybody in the industry. I kept in close touch, as I mentioned earlier, with the agronomy department when I was farming barley. I also corresponded with the agronomy departments of Nevada and Arizona in a search for new varieties of barley.

Rube kept me advised on what they were doing--the programs they were initiating and we'd try them here. I think I have the distinction of being the first cattleman to start brush clearing in this state--another Extension idea, as explained in detail earlier.

Dickman: What other programs helped the ranch?

Trescony: We did a lot of range improvement variety and fertilizer trials. In the cattle business I was one of the first to start breeding yearling heifers, and under Rube's supervision we started cross-breeding cattle. That was quite a venture--it was new! In fact, all of these programs were "ahead of their time." Rube had a lot of foresight, getting information from Davis and we put these ideas in practice. Today it's common practice, but then it was something new. People wondered about it. We proved the theory was practical and profitable.

Dickman: What about your neighbor ranchers; how much did Extension help them?

Trescony: Some cooperated; others didn't. After seeing the results, most of them adopted the practice of crossbreeding. But...we were the pioneers.

We enjoyed doing it; it gave us spirit of adventure, cooperating with the UC Extension Service and seeing how the experiments turned out. It was very interesting.

Many Nationalities Serve the Rancho San Lucas

Dickman: Did you use many migrant workers on the ranch?

Trescony: Yes we did. At first we had Mexicans--the bracero program was the best we ever had; sorry they discontinued it. In addition,

Trescony: we always had Swiss, Italians, Portuguese, Chinese--all denominations of people working here. We never lacked for labor. Of course, being such a productive valley, raising all kinds of crops, we got all sorts of people coming to work. In fact, we had Hindus working here on the ranch, wearing their turbans. You might say almost every nationality has worked on this ranch--it could be called the melting pot of nationalities.

Trescony: Now there is a super bunch of Mexican people in the state. Practically every town has a large population of them.

Dickman: Are many of them here illegally?

Trescony: Yes, lots of them. I would say about half are here illegally.

Dickman: How would you handle that problem if you were President Carter?

Trescony: It's a tough situation. Two years ago we had a labor strike in the tomato industry. The fields were picketed; two deputy sheriffs riding in two cars patrolled the county roads and kept the strikers off private property. One day when I went to town to get the groceries and mail, there were about eighty strikers at the entrance of my ranch. They had radios going--all Mexicans, under the Chavez program. I made up my mind to talk to them in their own language. I wasn't going to argue with them, just wanted to make a point as to how we feel about their striking activities.

I called in Spanish to the group leader; his mother came with him (there were women also). I said in Spanish, "I'm not going to argue with you but I want to make one point clear. You people come from a country that is rich in natural resources, have many minerals--gold, silver, ore--wonderful land; good water. There's so much you can do right there at home. Why don't you use the energy you are expending up here in your own country to benefit your conditions at home?"

Nobody answered for a minute, then one man spoke up, "You stole California from us."

"I told you I don't want to argue with you. I just want to make a point clear. Stay home and benefit your country and then come up here." Then I left. I figured I told them what they should know.

Dickman: How do you feel about that?

Trescony: These immigrants are attracted up here by the high wages we pay. The solution has to come from their country; they tell me that they're told by their government, "Go to California to work and as soon as your job runs out, go on unemployment."

Dickman: Have you always weighed that?

Trescony: They're told that. So how can you combat a situation like that? I don't know - I doubt if President Carter knows either.

Dickman: When you had the braceros, Julius, did you have a chance to talk to them personally?

Trescony: Yes, they were good. They came and they worked and then returned; no problem.

Dickman: How did they like the program.

Trescony: Very good; everything was satisfactory.

Back Trailing

Dickman: Julius, if you had to live your whole life over, what would you change?

Trescony: Try to do a little better job.

Dickman: What are your keenest disappointments?

Trescony: The fact that I didn't have enough money to accomplish certain goals. I saw the possibility of doing a lot; I would have invested in more land, following in my grandfather's footsteps, but I was curtailed going through the depression and carrying such a large debt. Money wasn't available; it was hard to get. I forgot to tell you I also bought out my sister and that cost \$65,000; bought out my brother for \$55,000.

Although I have the memory of the grandest parents that ever lived, I was left with a big indebtedness against the property, and with the depression in the middle of it all, it was pretty tough going. Maybe it was a good thing it happened that way. Had it been reversed and the ranch was free and unencumbered, maybe I would have dissipated it all. Maybe the Lord meant to do it that way to make me work a little harder.

Dickman: Did you ever want to be an attorney, a doctor?

Trescony: I enjoyed what I was doing; the only thing I felt I would have liked was to be a little bigger, to have weighed about 165 pounds, stand about 5 feet 11 inches.

Dickman: How tall are you?

Trescony: I'm 5 feet 7 inches; weigh about 135 pounds.

Dickman: Have you always weighed that?

Trescony: I haven't varied four pounds in forty years.

Dickman: Julius, let's suppose you got the ranch without any indebtedness. What would you have done?

Trescony: I would have increased it. I had the same idea that my grandfather had. I enjoyed owning and operating land. Not that I want to be

Dickman: a big land owner, but I was looking ahead to leave something for my children.

Trescony: Yes I think our biggest problem right now is taxes. This Jarvis amendment, although it's not exactly what we need, I'm tickled to

Dickman: death it is stirring them up, building a fire under our leaders in Sacramento and also in Washington and let them know they can't

Trescony: keep spending our money as lavishly as they have been in the past. It goes for schools, for cities, but it's our money they're

Dickman: spending and they're taxing our lands just about all we can stand.

Trescony: In some cases a lot of farmers are hardly breaking even on their operations because of taxes.

Dickman: What about the telephone?

Technology Advances During My Lifetime

Trescony: We were one of the first to have a telephone. Two wires, seven miles, posts, insulators; it cost us quite a bit. I remember

Dickman: A few more questions on technology, Julius; do you remember when electricity first came to the ranch?

Trescony: We first started with wood and then I developed gas on the ranch; we had gas light and heat. I ran a gas engine to pump water and

Dickman: to make electricity. Later the gas well went down; I had to build a gas reservoir tank.

Trescony: It When rural electrification was available, I discontinued the gas and used electricity to pump water for irrigation and all the ranch facilities. I am now thinking in terms of putting up

Dickman: electric wind machines. We have a wind every afternoon in this valley and we could generate electricity cheaply. There's a lot

Trescony: of things we can do if we have to - and we won't do them until we have to. When necessity demands new methods, we'll create

them, I know. I'm very interested in this solar heating and cooling. I think it's going to be our solution in the future for energy--it'll be the big breakthrough.

I have seen many new developments in my time--radio, television--they're just scratching the surface. In the next thirty years we're going to see big changes in many ways--transportation, for example.

Dickman: Do you recall your first radio?

Dickman: Do you remember the days of the silent pictures? Where did you go to see them?

Trescony: I can't tell you the year; it was many, many years ago. It was a Collin B Kennedy set with four big boxes--they were rather expensive, about \$400. We would sit up for hours getting it connected to New York and other stations.

Dickman: Do you remember the first radio program you ever heard? Did you hear the Harding election results in 1920?

Trescony: Yes, radio has always fascinated me.

Dickman: How about your first plane ride? When was that?

Trescony: No, I really can't remember.

Dickman: Have you ridden planes very often?

Trescony: Yes, I've traveled to Europe several times, and Central and South America.

Dickman: What about the telephone?

Trescony: We were one of the first to have a telephone. Two wires, seven miles, posts, insulators; it cost us quite a bit. I remember we would call King City, you'd give the operator the number you wanted and she would connect you. That's the way you got your connection completed. Now you can pick up the telephone and dial anywhere in the world.

Dickman: Do you remember when you got your first phone? Were you a youngster?

Trescony: It was before I went to Santa Clara, I know that. In 1903 I went there, so it was before the turn of the century when we got our first phone.

Dickman: What about roads? What did you do before roads got paved?

Trescony: We always managed our roads; they were passable. We took care of ours and the county took care of the county roads. We did a lot with horses; we had to drag our roads; later we got a road grader and pulled it with horses.

Still later we got larger, gas operated machines. You could rent them to maintain your private roads. You go step by step--gets better all the time, easier and more expensive.

Hollywood Comes to Rancho San Lucas

Dickman: Do you remember the days of the silent pictures? Where did you go to see them?

Trescony: Yes. We had movies made here on the ranch. Gary Cooper's first western was made here on the Trescony Ranch--Cooper, Bill Desmond; Hoot Gibson was quite a star and he made pictures here. The stars stayed in King City at the hotel and would come out here in cars; weather permitting, they'd shoot pictures; otherwise they'd dally until the weather was right. They burned hay stacks and did all kinds of stunts.

Dickman: Would you see the movies after they were completed?

Trescony: Yes, they'd have a preview for us in King City, then we'd see them afterwards. They made pictures in the Peach Tree Valley, too.

Dickman: What did you and Marie do for recreation? Was there much dancing? Square dancing?

Trescony: Yes, regular dancing. Square dancing didn't start until later. We played cards at card parties.

Dickman: What kind of cards? Bridge?

Trescony: Whist and Pedro. We didn't play cards very much.

Dickman: Where did you go dancing?

Trescony: At different homes. We had dances also in San Lucas, San Ardo; we gave dances for benefits for the church and the school. Later on Rube started the square dancing.

The Last of the Six Generations

Dickman: Can you name all of your grandchildren and tell me about when they were born?

Trescony: The oldest one, Helene, is about 29; her married name is Frakes. She has one child, Anthony, who is two years old. Paul, her brother is 26, not married; he's doing research for the Stanford Research Institute at Menlo Park.

My other son has a daughter, Julie, who graduated from high school with high honors and graduated from UCLA with maximum cum laude. Her married name is Stevens and she lives in Portland, Oregon; she's 24 years old.

My grandson Michael is 15 years old and in high school. Those are my four grandchildren and one great grandson, Anthony, whose is the sixth generation of the Trescony family.

Trescony: As I mentioned earlier, under the Heritage Program held here last year by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, we were honored and were awarded a plaque, stating we are the oldest family living on the same property—116 years.

Mr. Luis Chancor



Julius proudly holds his great grandson representing the sixth generation of the Trescony family, left to right, Frakes (great son-in-law), Luis (a son), Julius, Helene Frakes (granddaughter) and baby Anthony.

Trescony: Thank you for your trouble, for coming down and listening to what I had to say.

Trescony: As I mentioned earlier, under the Heritage Program held here last year by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, we were honored and were awarded a plaque, stating we are the oldest family living on the same property--116 years.

My Last Chapter

Dickman: Julius, I'd like to talk for a minute about Marie; she died in 1958. How many years were you married?

Trescony: We were married for 37 years. She died very suddenly--a rupture of an intestine and peritonitis set in. Although she was operated on immediately, the poison set in and it was too late to save her.

As I've said to many, many people, she was my inspiration, and if it weren't for her, I wouldn't have what I have today. I thought that I would die first, but now that I have a chance to see it more clearly, I understand why she's up there, because she's clearing the road for me. Maybe I couldn't do that for her.

Dickman: Does this make the thoughts of death a good deal easier for you?

Trescony: Oh, yes. I don't look at death as most people do. In other words, I feel this way, having lived 88 years, I'm ready to go anytime. Maybe in the sight of the Lord I'm not prepared, but when he says "rider's up," I'm ready to mount. After all, someone had to make room for me, and I'll have to make room for someone else. I can't expect to live here too long.

I lived a good life and the real enjoyment during my life was my many friends. This makes me feel very wealthy. They were good to me and helped me when I needed them. That's the best part of life--friendship--that's my philosophy. Money isn't everything. If you haven't got friends, you're really very lonely because money can't buy them.

Dickman: Julius, we thank you very much. This is the end of the tape, and we appreciate what you have done for us.

Trescony: Thank you for your trouble, for coming down and listening to what I had to say.

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